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ABSTRACT

Designed for use in preschool and early elementary school classrooms, this collection of eight American Indian legends provides patterns for making feltboard cutouts of their characters and props to be used in story telling activities. Seven of the legends originate with the Hupa, Karuk, or Yurok Indians of northwestern California and one is from the Tlingit of the Pacific Northwest. Each legend is followed by patterns for its characters and props which include rabbits, blue jays, frogs, woodpeckers, eagles, squirrels, Indian maidens, foxes, coyotes, pine trees, tree stumps, camp fires, baskets, stars, and moons. The feltboard pieces can be made by students or made by the teacher and used in student performances. Pattern pieces have a simple outline with few internal details and an average size of 7 inches for the longer dimension. The legend titles are "Coyote and Crow," "Coyote and the Wren," "Coyote and the Stars," "Coyote and the Fox," "Coyote and Frog," "The Lonesome Little Pine Tree," "Deer and the Blue Jay," and "Blue Stone Man". A final section gives patterns for 25 additional mammals of the northwest. (JHZ)

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A Presentation by Dr. Ruth Bennett
Director
Bilingual Education
Center for Community
Development
Humboldt State Univ.
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BILINGUAL EDUCATION:

Bilingual/Cross-Cultural Emphasis

Indian Legends and Felt Board

Cut-out Characters

Readings and activities for pre-school and early elementary school classrooms

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Acknowledgments

This series of legends and feltboard characters was originally put together for workshop presentations. The legends represent authentic oral history , being Indian traditional myths from Northwest California. One legend, Blue Stone Man, is Tlinglit, from the Pacific Northwest. The others are from the Hupa, Karuk, or Yurok.

The feltboard characters have been designed for classroom activities in two senses: students can make their own felt characters; or, characters can be made by the teacher and used in student performances.

The contributors to this volume are the Director and three trainees from the Bilingual Emphasis Program at Humboldt State University. The Director is Dr. Ruth Bennett; contributing trainees are Ellen Poitras, Barbara Redner, and Lynn Risling Shaw.

COYOTE AND THE CROW

Coyote was walking along the trail one day, and he was in an ugly mood. He was angry with everyone and was looking for trouble. As he was walking along with his head down he passed some one and spoke to him. But the other one did not answer, and this made Coyote angry, so still hanging his head he walked over to the person and jabbed him in the ribs with his elbow, with all his might. But instead of it

being a person, it was the stump of an old tree, and Coyote's elbow caught in the rotted stump and he could not get it out. Coyote looked up quickly and saw what had happened, then he began to howl and scream for help. He made so much noise that all the birds of the forest came flying to see what was wrong. Then they all took turns pecking and finally had the wood pecked away from Coyote's elbow and he was free again. Coyote was so glad that he was free, he said, "You birds have been very good to me this morning and now I am going to do something nice for you. I'll take my Indian paints of vegetables and bark dyes and make you all very beautiful."

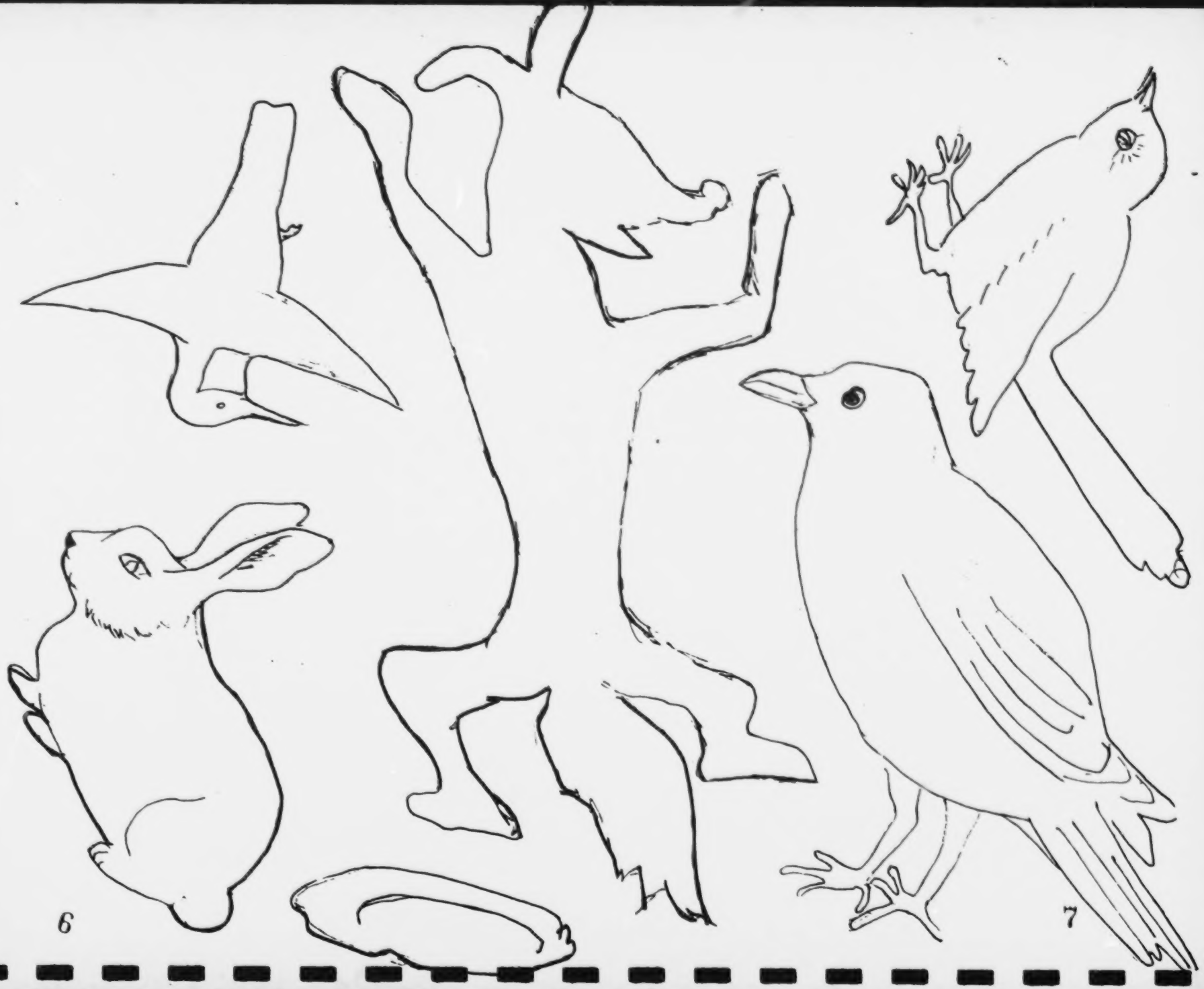
So he took his brush and paints and painted all the birds. When it came the woodpecker's turn to be painted, there was just a little of the beautiful red paint in the rock pot, as it was very hard to get, and Coyote only had a little of it. But since the woodpecker had done most of the work in freeing Coyote, he took the beautiful red paint and put it on the woodpecker's head. When the crow saw the beautiful head of the woodpecker he said to Coyote, "When you paint me, do not be so stingy with the red paint; I want to be red all over."

"This is all the red paint I have," said Coyote.

"I don't care," said the crow, "go get some more. I want to be red all over, and be the most beautiful bird in all the world."

"Alright," said Coyote, "shut your eyes, and I'll paint you red all over."

So the crow shut his eyes and Coyote painted him. But when the crow opened his eyes, he was painted all black instead of the beautiful red he had demanded. He was very angry at Coyote and scolded him, "Caw-caw-caw," sharply; but Coyote said, "You did not help me to get free from the stump, yet you want the best paint. After this be satisfied with what people are willing to give you."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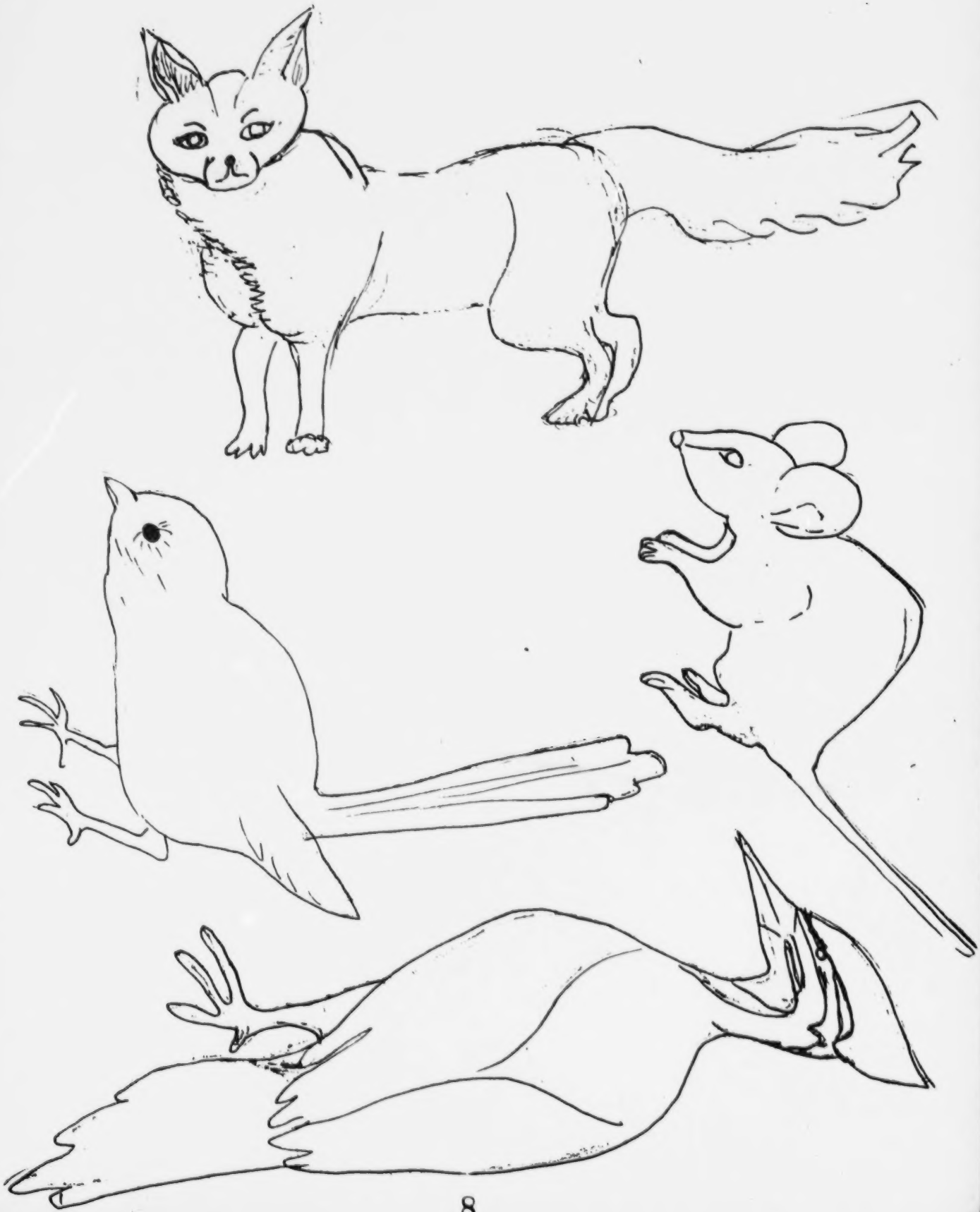
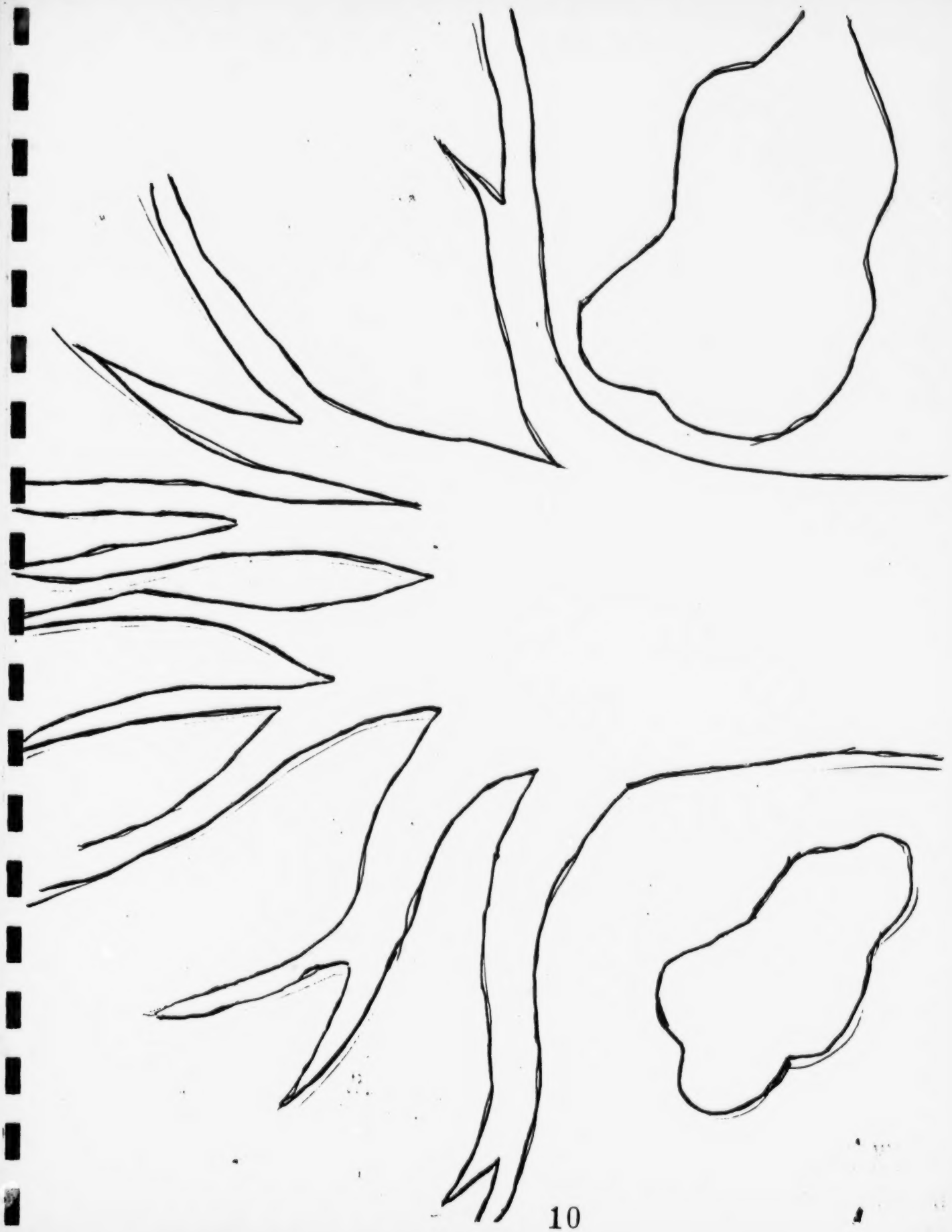




COYOTE AND THE WREN

One day Coyote, the Wren, and all the little birds and animals went down the river to fight the Yurok Klamath Indians. Just before they got there, they all stopped at Yuroksthuf, meaning Bluff creek, to eat. Blue Jay was cooking some acorns. While they were cooking, one acorn kept bubbling up in the middle of the pot. Coyote kept watching that acorn, and thought it was the only one is the pot. Every time Blue Jay would turn her back, Coyote would try to get the acorn out, but the water was too hot and he could not get it.

After the acorns were cooked, Blue Jay drained the hot water off them, and as the water ran down the hill, lots and lots of acorns rolled out. When the mice saw so many, many acorns, their eyes popped out, and all the mice still have popped eyes. Coyote ate, and ate, and ate, but he could not eat all the acorns. And to this day there are lots of little rocks the shape of acorns where Blue Jay poured the acorns out of the pot at Bluff Creek.

When the feast was over, Coyote asked Wren to sing a song. The Wren said, "My song is very bad; I better not sing."

"Oh, that is alright; go on and sing," said Coyote.

The Wren said, "No, my song is too powerful, and it will cause a big storm. I do not want to sing."

But Coyote insisted, so Wren sang. At the very first note of the Wren's song, a big wind storm came up, and the first puff of wind blew Coyote away up the river, towards home.

Wren said, "See, I told you my song was very bad."

"That is alright; keep on singing," called Coyote.

Finally Coyote was blown all the way back home, which was just what he wanted, so he would not have to go to war. He was so happy that he rolled on the ground and kicked out a beautiful valley. The Karuks call it "Pa-Nom_Neek" meaning the "Valley Place," ancient capitol of the Karuk Indians, now known as Orleans.

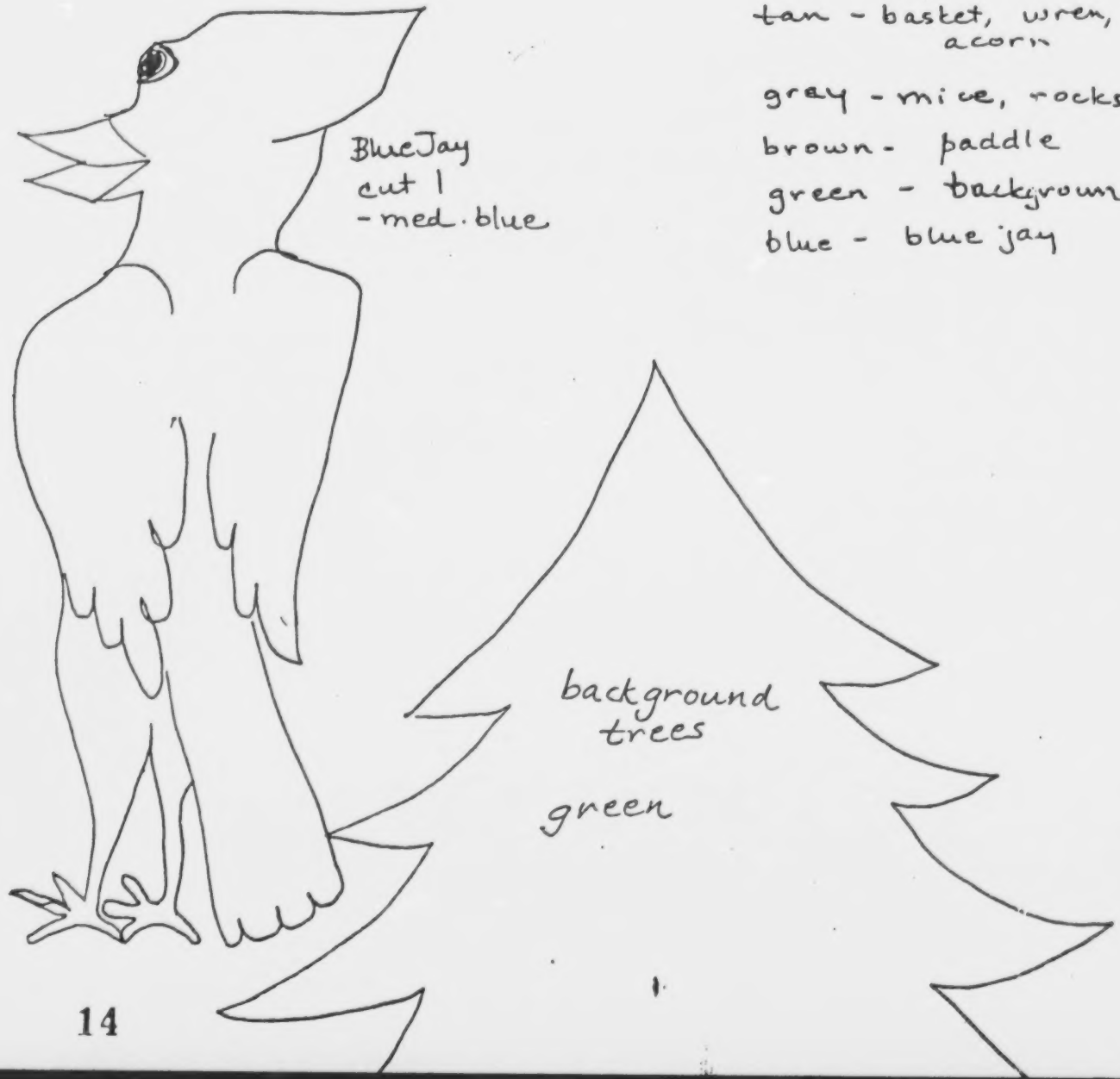
Coyote and The Wren

cut one.

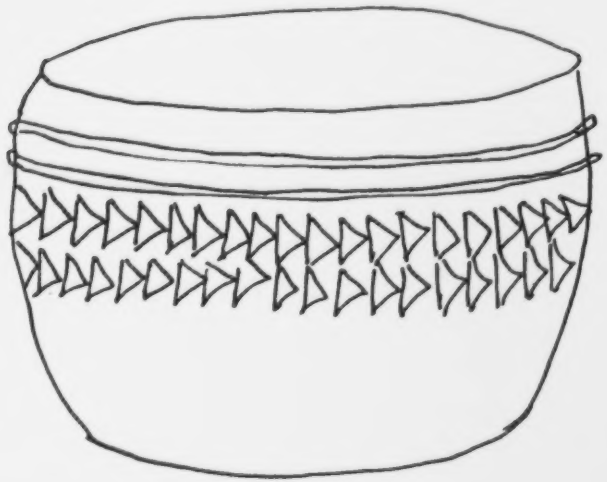
tan

Coyote and the Wren

colors of felt needed	no. of squa
tan - basket, wren, coyote acorn	1
gray - mice, rocks	1
brown - paddle	1
green - background trees	1
blue - blue jay	1



cut one - tan
cooking basket



cut one
popping-up acorn
tan

cut 5 to 7
acorn shaped
rocks
- gray

wren
cut one
tan

cut one
brown

paddle

mice
cut 3 to 5
gray

COYOTE AND THE STARS

One night Cotote was lying on his back singing a dance song, and as he looked up into the sky he noticed the stars were twinkling more brilliantly than ever.

Never before had they been so brilliant, and somebody a long time ago, Coyote couldn't remember who it was or when it was, but somebody had told him that all the little stars were beautiful Indian girls, and Coyote thought he would like to go up and see those Indian maidens. So he went through the woods, asking how he could go up into the Heavens. The spider said she could weave a long rope, and the giant Redwood Tree said he could bend down to earth and throw Coyote up into the Sky. When he got there these girls weren't twinkling at all. They were dancing. Coyote was so overcome at the sight of so many beautiful Indian maidens, he just stood and looked. They were dressed in the most elaborate white buckskin dresses, which were trimmed with beads, porcupine quills and seashells.

When he came to himself he rushed up to them and said, "I would like to join you girls in your dance," and the stars answered, "You couldn't dance with us, because we dance day and night, year after year, forever and ever; we never stop."

"But," Coyote said, surely, if any girl can do that, I, who am a big brave could also dance forever."

But the stars told him no. Coyote begged and pleaded, and teased until the girls said that he might join them. So Coyote joined hands with the stars, and he danced all over the heavens.

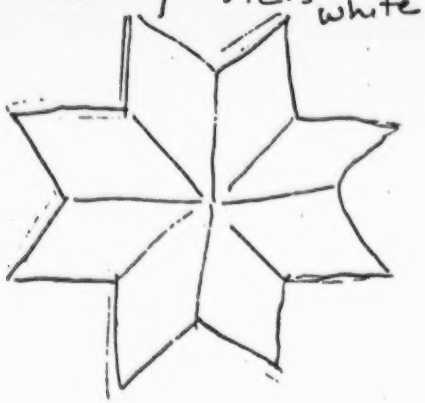
He got along alright for the first night, but the next night he was very tired. He didn't want the girls to know he was tired, so he asked, "May I stop just for a moment, to get a drink?" The stars answered, "No, we told you we dance forever and ever."

So they danced on, and Coyote began to get more tired, and his back was aching, and his legs were aching, and again he called out, "May I stop to get a bit to eat, because I am very, very hungry?" And the stars said, "You must dance on and on, and never stop."

Before long the stars were dragging him through the heavens. Soon one arm let loose and then the other came off, so Coyote fell back to earth and as he was falling through space he passed the moon, and he yelled, "Someone help me!" but not a sound there. When he was near the earth he saw an Eagle soaring and he yelled again, "Help me, Uncle, please help me fall on a mossy place." Eagle just whistled and soared away.

Now, up in northern California, in the Klamath Region, ther is a great hole in the ground, covered with red rust, and the Indians say that is where Coyote fell, and the red is his blood.

cut 7 stars white

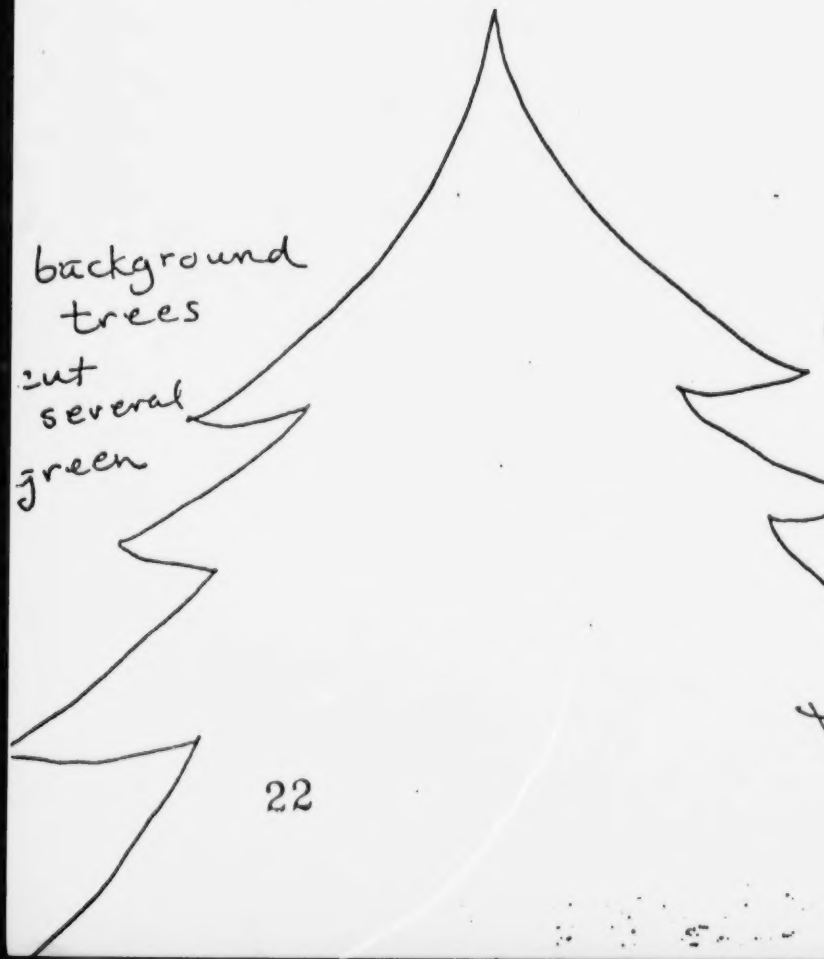


cut one yellow moon

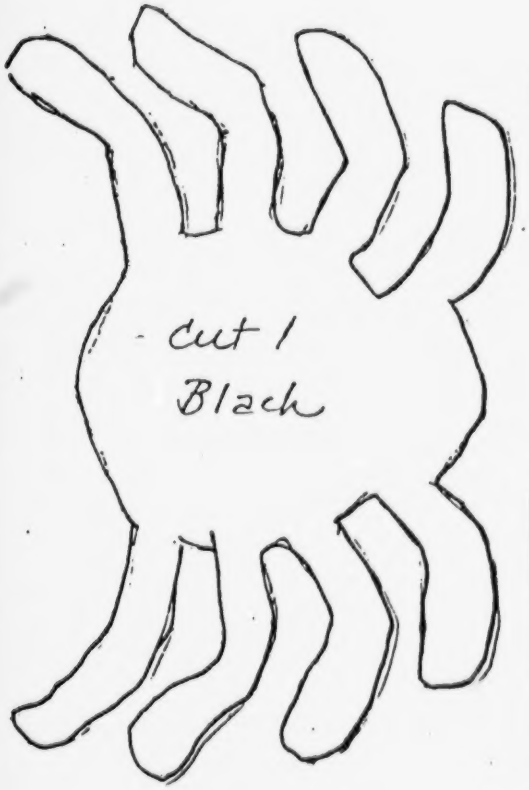
cut one white eagle
color in features

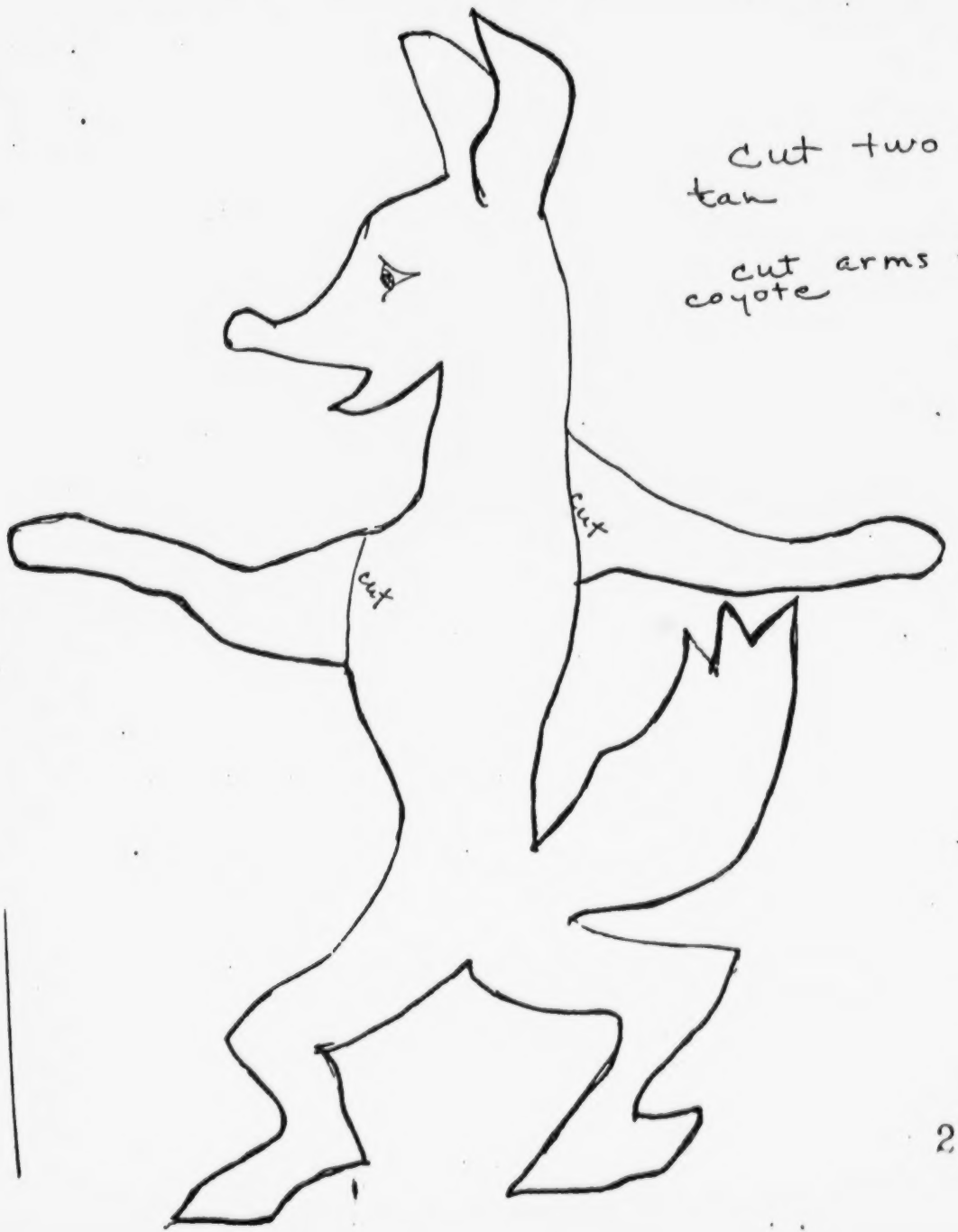
cut 4 to 7 star maidens pale flesh

colors	of felt needed	no. of square
white -	stars and eagle	1
flesh -	the star maidens	2 to 3
tan -	coyotes	2
yellow -	moon	1
green -	the giant redwood background trees	2 or 3
rust -	the place where coyote landed	1



Coyote and



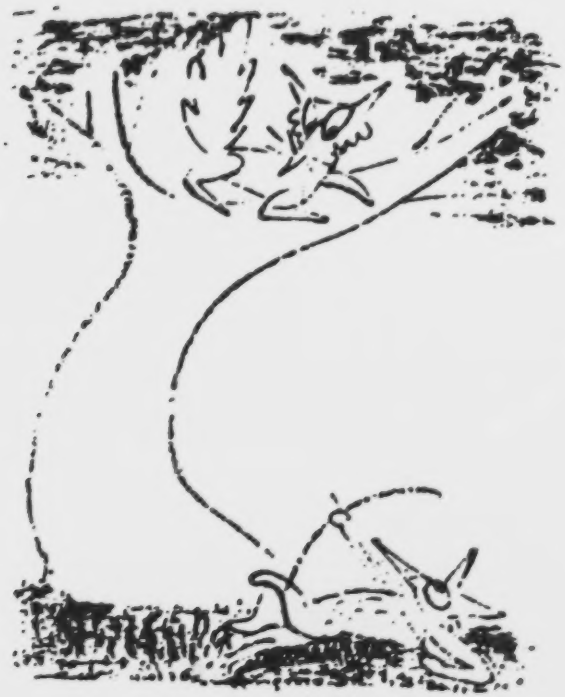


cut two coyotes tan

cut arms off of one coyote

cut one

cut one



COYOTE AND THE FOX

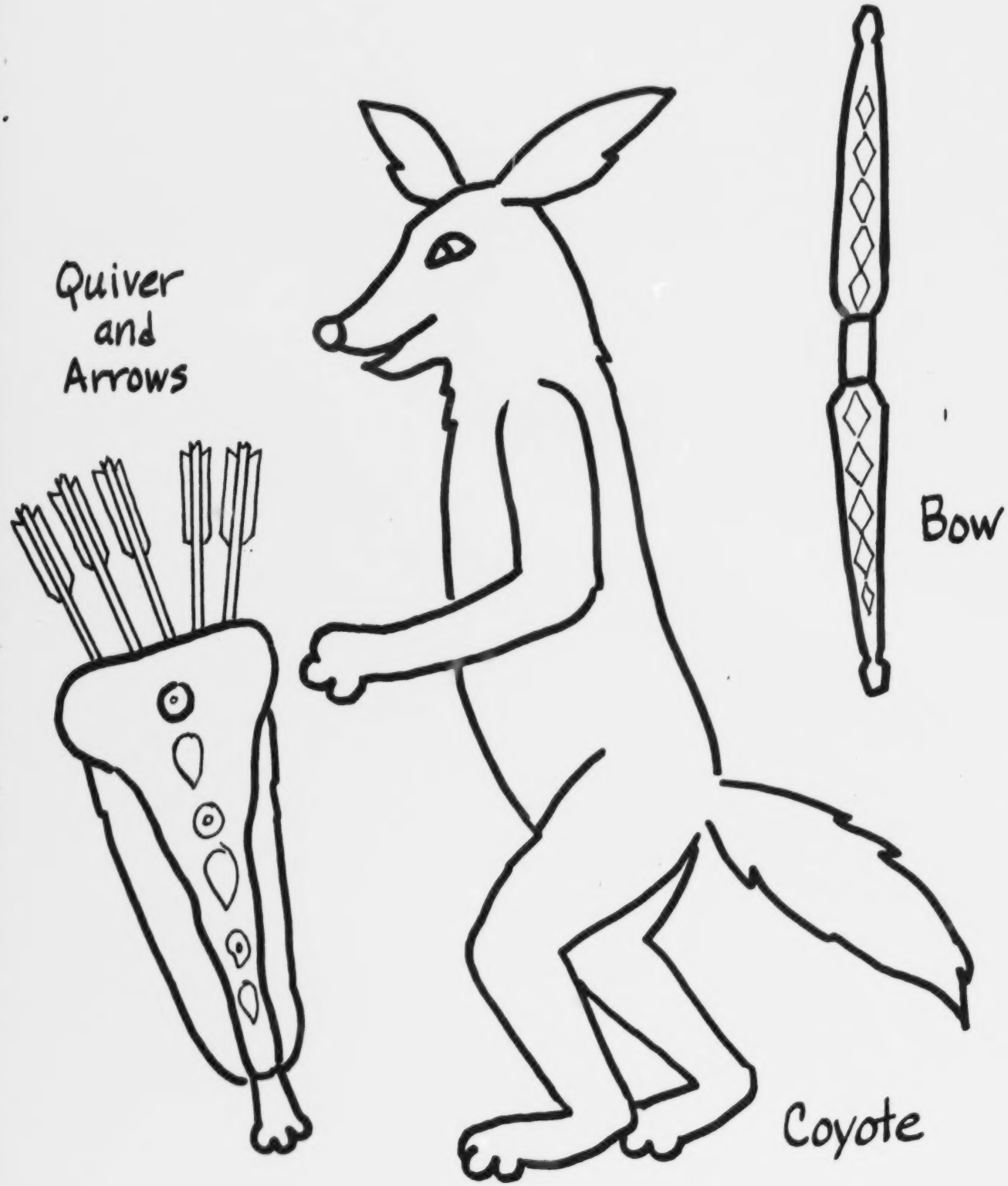
One day Coyote was going out hunting, so he picked up his bow and quiver. In his quiver he put five arrows, then he started out. The day was hot, and Coyote is always lazy anyway, so when he came to a nice large shade tree, he thought he would lie down awhile. He threw down his bow and quiver, and stretched out under the tree. Coyote was lying there looking up through the branches, and what do you think he saw? A great big fox.

"Oh!" said Coyote, "but I am lucky. I do not have to go hunting. I just come out here and lie under a tree, and there is my supper right over my head. Indeed I am lucky, besides a good supper there is a fine foxskin up there for me." "Oh well, I guess I am just about the luckiest one in our tribe, and besides being the luckiest in the tribe I am the best marksman too. When I aim my arrows I never miss."

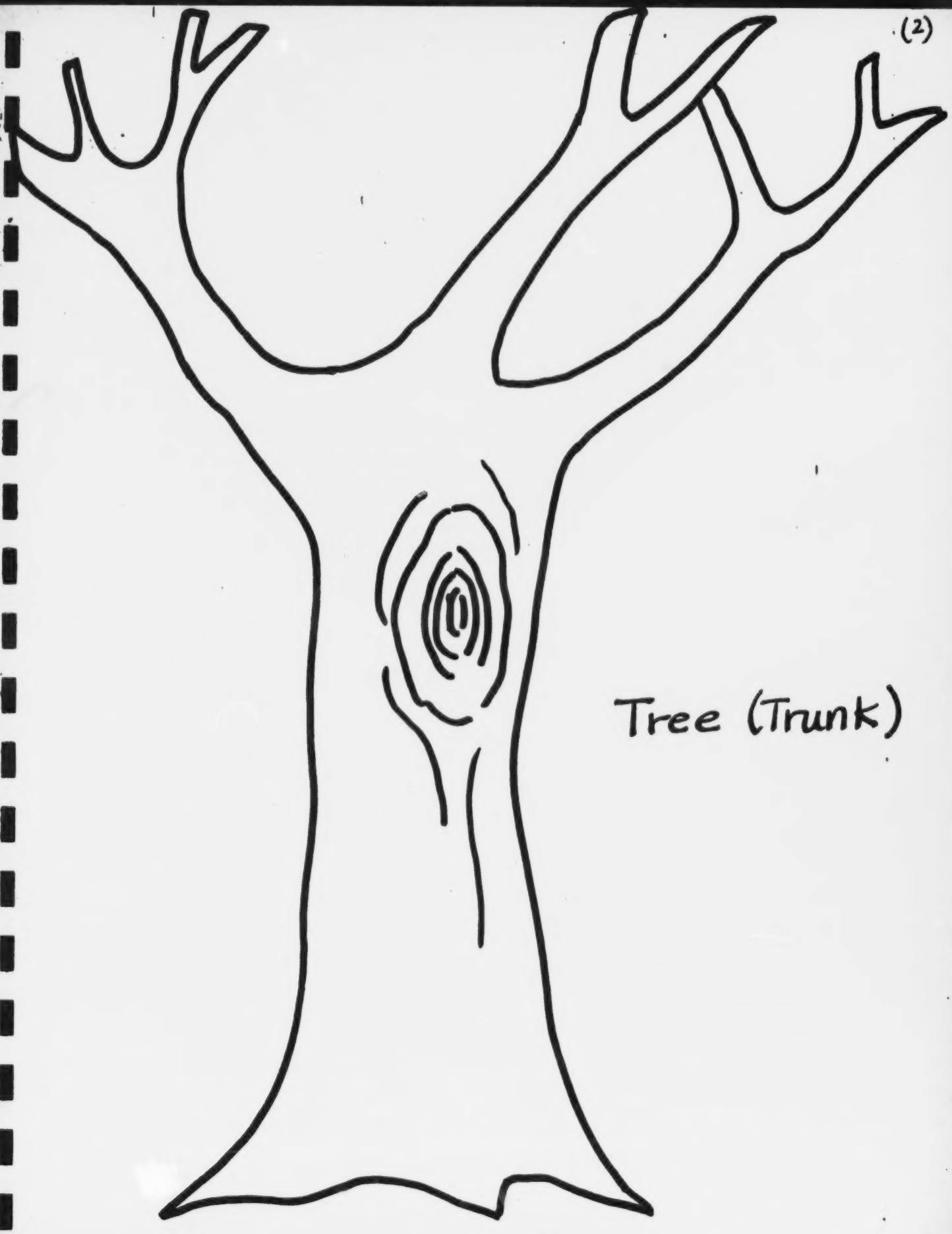
"Just to prove it, I am going to take my five arrows, and I will put the best arrow right here in the ground beside me. Then I'll shoot one to the North, one to the South, one to the East, and one to the West." So he did. He shot all of his arrows away but one. He picked up the arrow he had put in the ground, and said, "Now this is the arrow I am going to kill the fox with. But really I am so good at shooting I don't even have to shoot with my hands. I am going to shoot this arrow with my toes."

All this time the poor Fox was sitting up in the tree listening to the Coyote tell how good he was at shooting, and he was nearly frightened to death. In fact he was trembling so he nearly fell out of the tree.

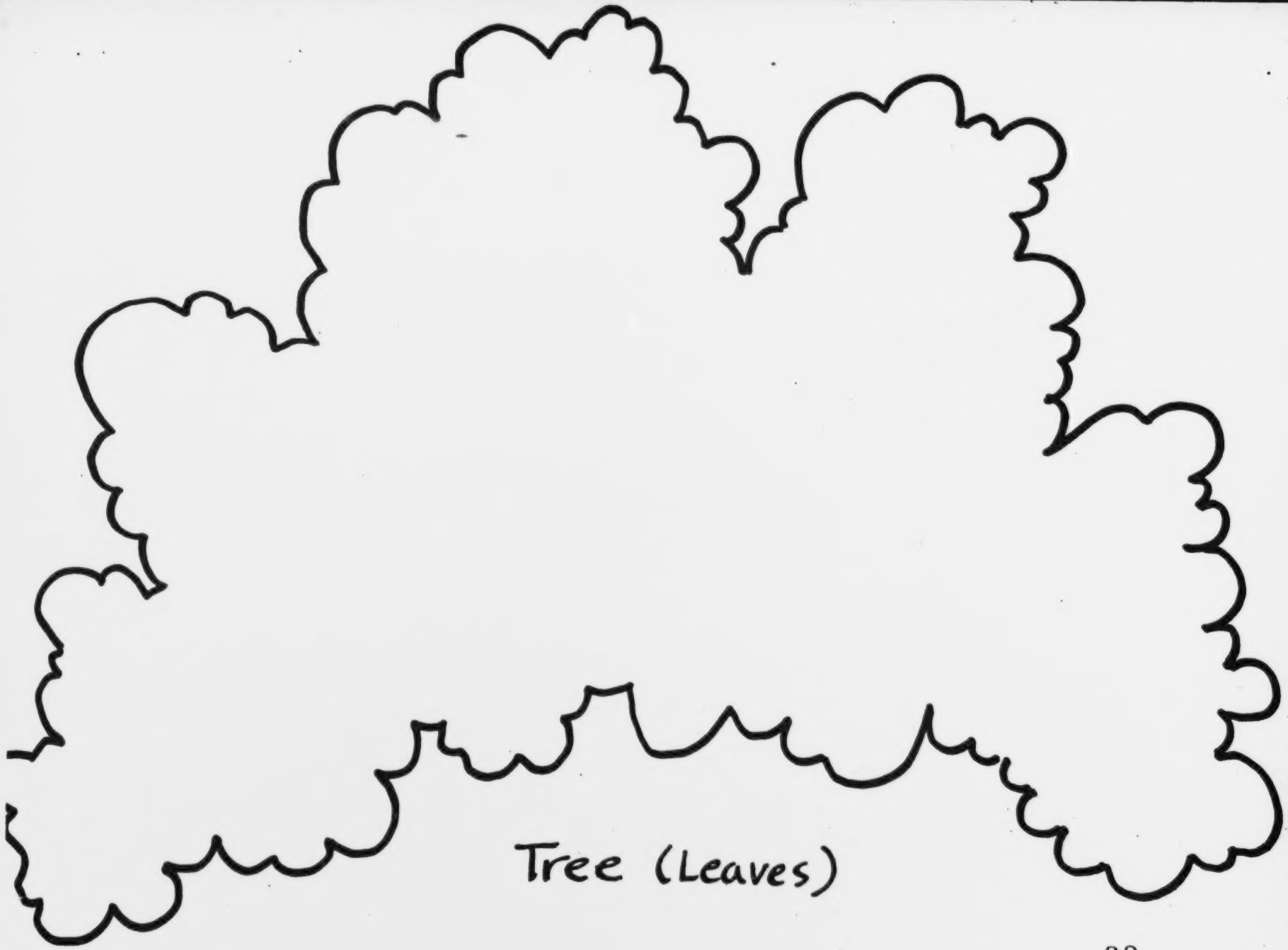
Coyote picked up his arrow, placed it between his toes, then aimed it very carefully through the branches, then let it fly. But something happened and the arrow did not hit the Fox. So when the Fox discovered he had not been shot, he jumped out of the tree and ran away. When he had gone a safe distance he called back, "Well, next time Coyote, don't be so sure of yourself, and don't be so boastful."


Quiver
and
Arrows
Bow
Coyote

(2)



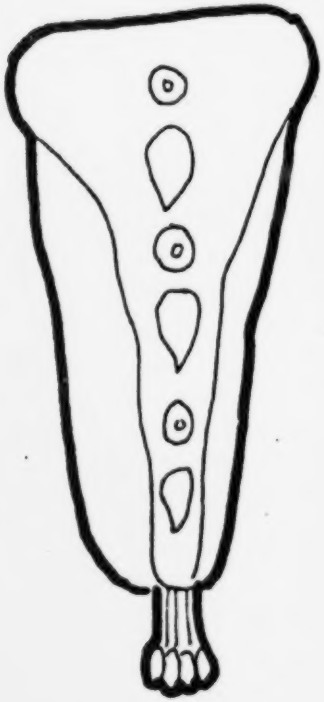
Tree (Trunk)


Tree (Leaves)

Sun
Coyote
(lying down)

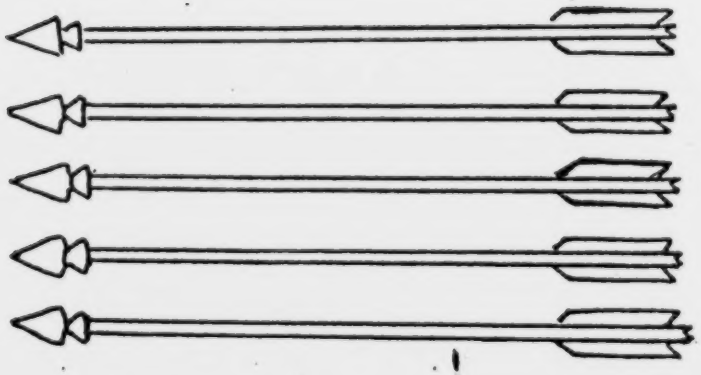
Fox
(Sitting in tree)

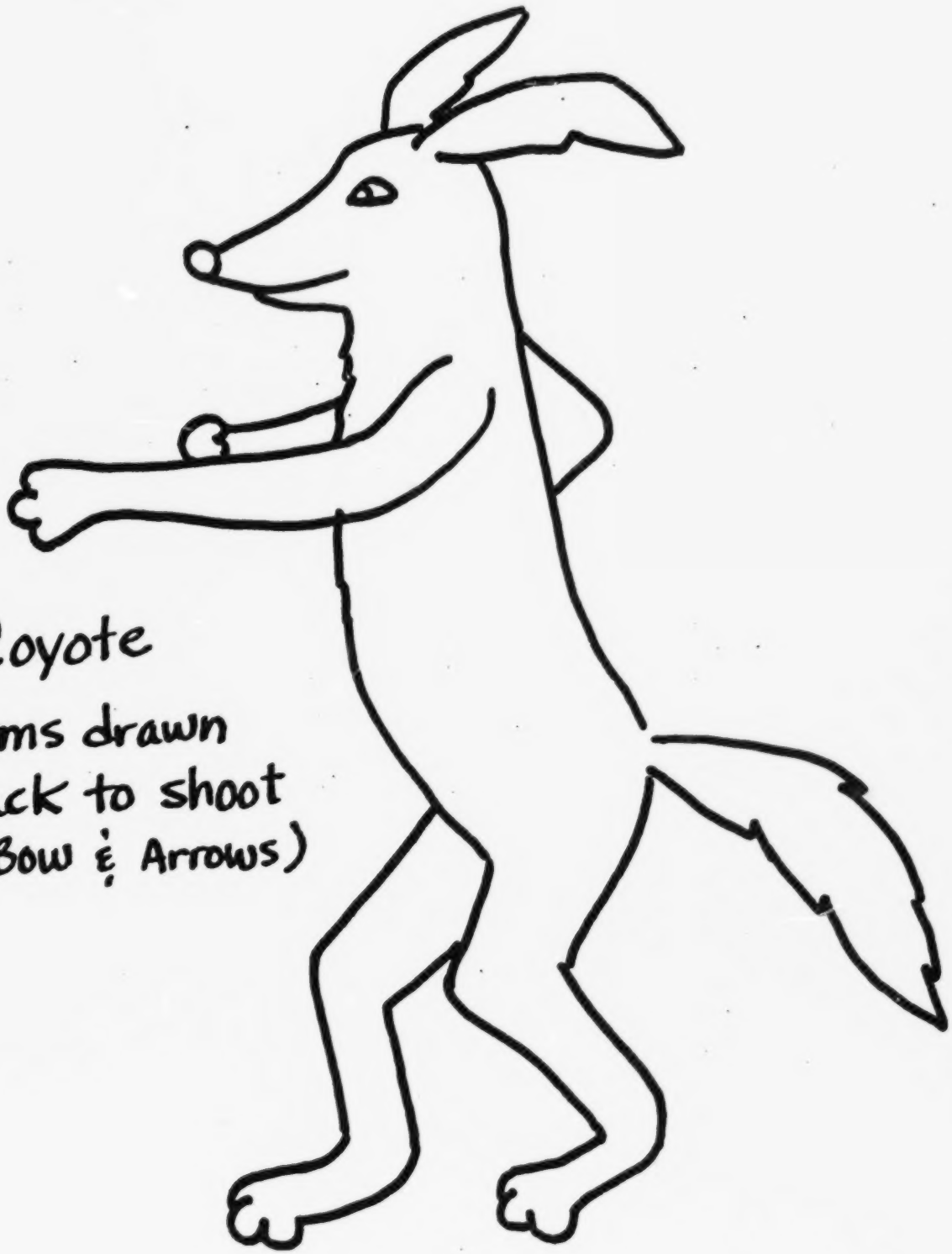
Bow
(Drawn back)



Quiver
(empty)

Arrows

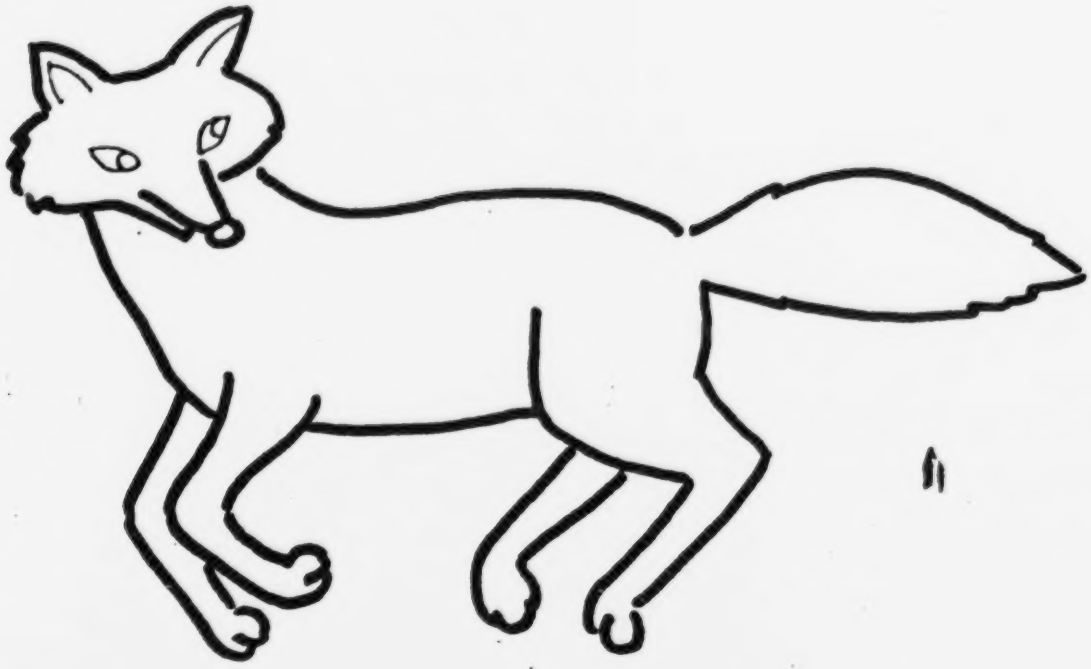




Coyote

(Arms drawn back to shoot Bow & Arrows)

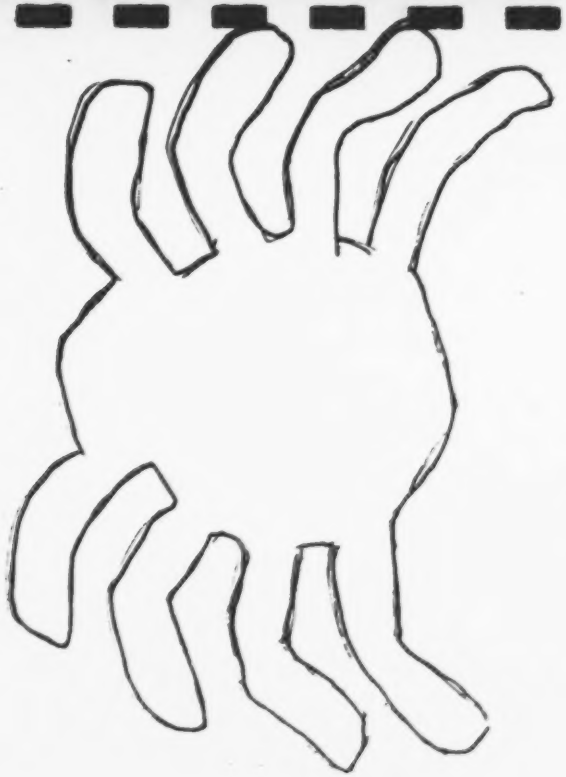
Fox (Running away)

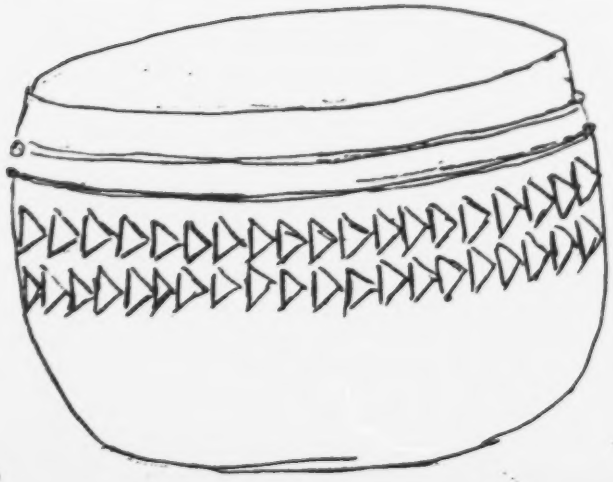


COYOTE AND FROG

Coyote was married to Frog. She was a good cook and a good housekeeper and most days they lived peacefully. Sometimes Coyote got grouchy, though, and would growl at Frog and beat her. One day Frog ran off. She began walking until she came to the dance grounds. A Brush Dance was going on, and Frog put on all her finest necklaces and began to dance.

When Coyote saw that Frog had gone, he went away. He went over to the dance. He began dancing between two girls. He desired one of them. He took her out of the dance. They went to talk over by a tree. When Frog sat down, Coyote said, "Take your dress off, Frog, I know it is you." She took her dress off and he saw it was his wife. He began to beat her again. She ran off. And that's what happened to Coyote that time.

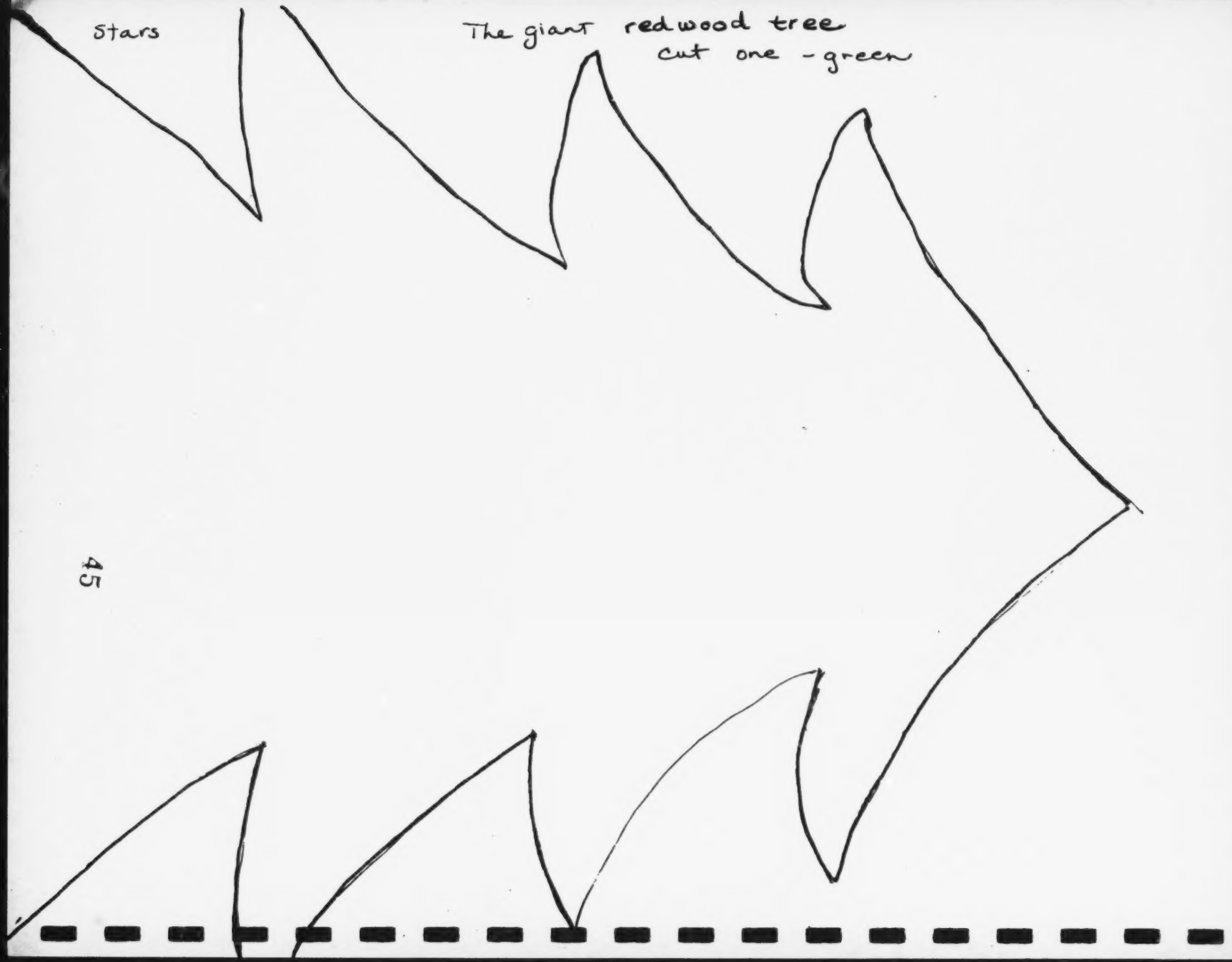




THE LONESOME LITTLE PINE TREE

Indians believe that a very long time ago when the earth was being made everything could talk and could get lonesome. Well there was this little pine tree growing on a hill all by himself. When the wind blew this little pine tree would rock back and forth. There were no other trees around him and he was very lonesome. He started to cry. He wondered why no other trees would grow around him. To help him from being too lonesome he would sing a song when the wind made him sway back and forth. He sang this song almost every day for a long time. Pretty soon he noticed there were trees growing up all around him. On many windy days all the trees would join him in his song. It sounded beautiful and the little pine tree wasn't lonesome anymore.

Some Indian women today will put their babies in baby baskets and sing them to sleep with that song.


Stars
The giant redwood tree
cut one - green

DEER AND THE BLUE JAY

On the Klamath River among the Karuk Indians, there was a very handsome brave by the name of Panther. All the Indian maidens were in love with him, but he fell in love with Miss Deer and they were married. Miss Deer was very proud to be known as Mrs. Panther and was a splendid wife to him. She was famous for her fine cooking, and all the other women were envious of the tasty acorn soup which Deer cooked.

Miss Blue Jay was also in love with Panther, and although Blue Jay was more beautiful than Deer, she could not cook. She thought, "I'm very beautiful, and if I can just find how Deer makes acorn soup, maybe I can win Panther away from her." So Blue Jay went to the Panther's home and pretended to be a very good friend of the Deer. The second day of her visit at the Panther's house, Blue Jay said, "Deer, let me help you make acorn soup."

"No," said Deer, "you just watch me, and I'll make it alone."

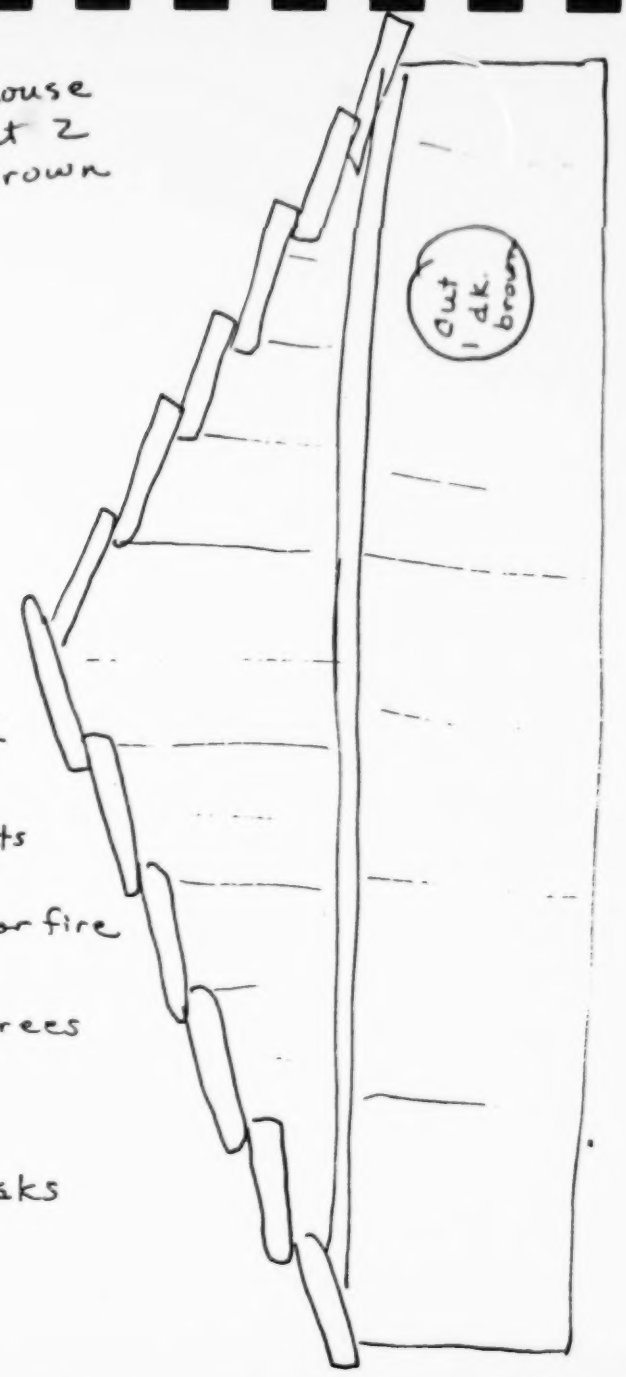
So she took the acorns, and pounded them into a very fine flour. Then she sifted, and sifted it many times to make it still finer. When the flour was fine as powder she put it in nice clean sand. Then she poured clean, fresh spring water over it all day long. The water kept soaking through the flour down into the sand and took the bitterness out of the acorn flour. When that was finished she placed her hand in the flour and it stuck on her hand; then she poured fresh water on the bottom of the flour that was on her hand and washed the sand off, and left the flour nice and clean. Then she put the

flour in a large cooking basket, added some water to it and stirred it around with a wooden paddle. Next the Deer took some iron rocks, put them in the fire and heated them until they were red hot. Then with two sticks she dropped the rocks into the basket of soup, and soon it was boiling. Then she held her arm over the basket of soup, and cracked her elbow open and let some deer marrow pour inot the soup. That was her secret of making such tasty soup, by putting the marrow into it. When it had cooked she served it to Blue Jay and Panther. Both said they had never eaten better soup, and Blue Jay was jealous when she heard Panther praise the acorn soup.

Blue Jay went home and a few days later she sent for Panther to come to her house for supper. When he arrived, Blue Jay was cooking the acorn soup. She dropped the hot iron rocks into the basket, then cracked her elbow and let the marrow pour into the soup. But instead of making the soup rich and good, her marrow was bitter and spoiled it. Panther tasted the soup and was very angry at B Blue Jay for serving him such bitter soup, and hurried back to his wife, who was still the best cook according to Panther.

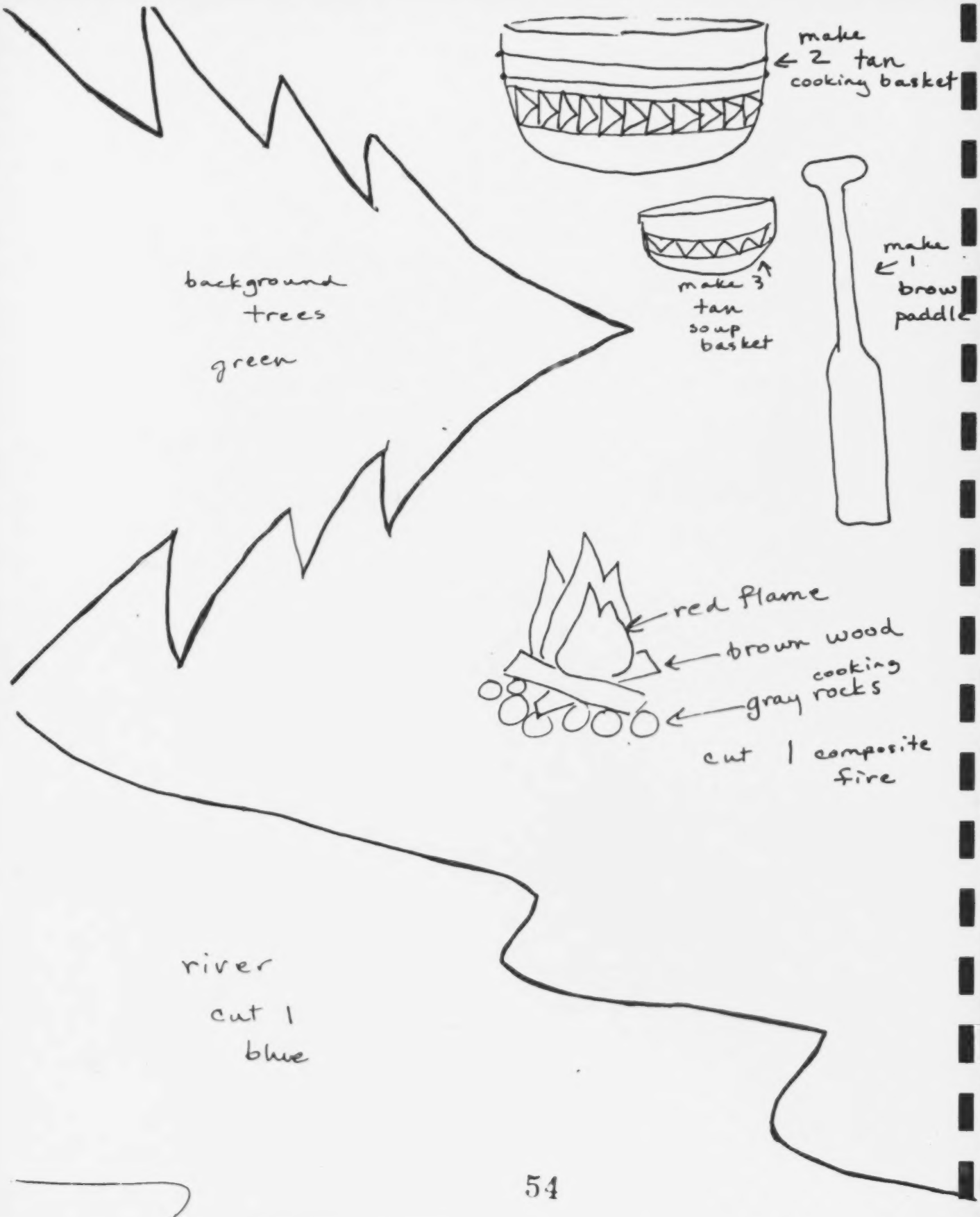
Blue jay
cut 1
blue

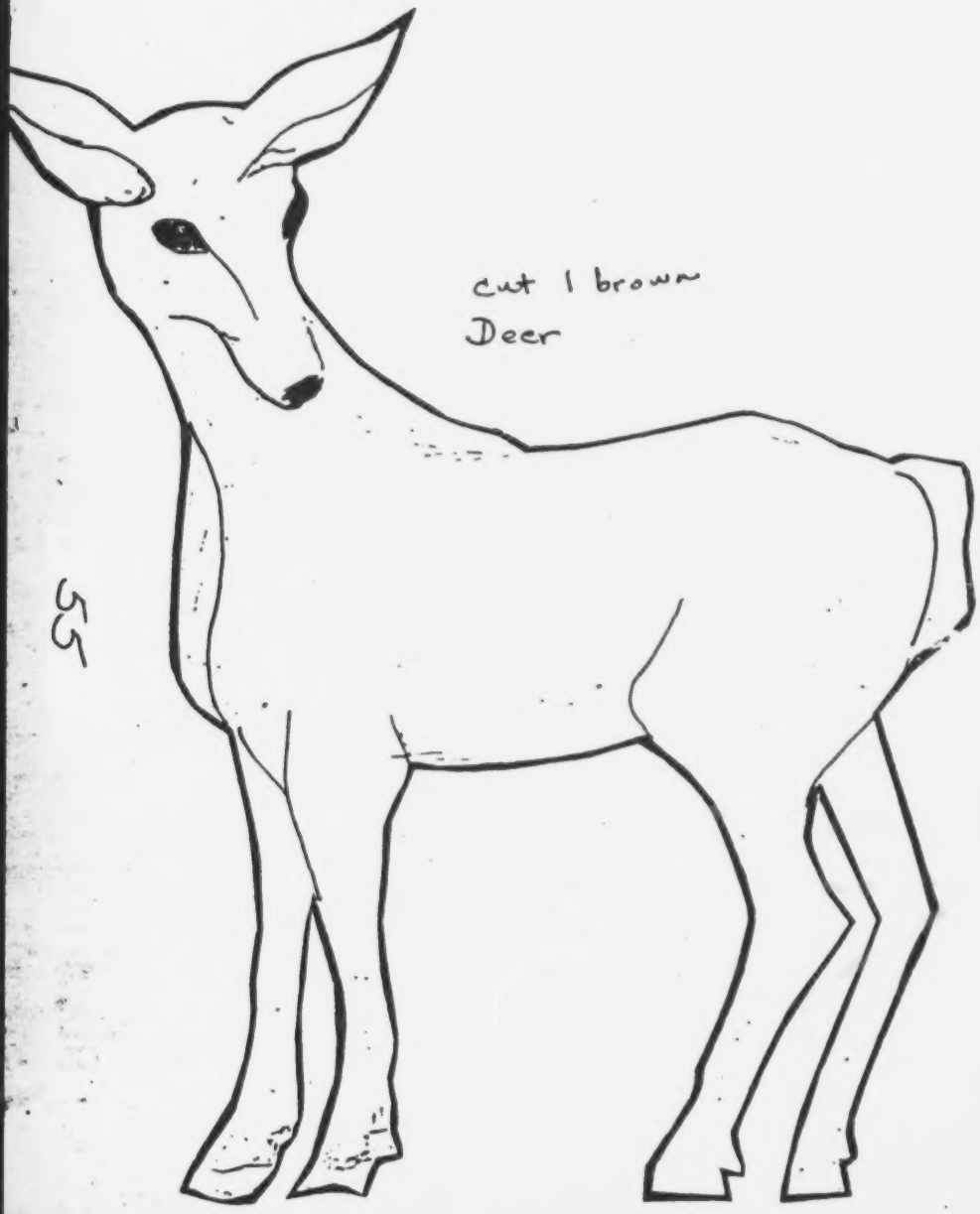
house
cut 2
light brown



colors of felt needed

med. blue - bluejay
lt. brown - house, baskets
panther,
dk. brown - deer, wood for fire
padde
green - background trees
blue - river
red, orange - fire
grey - cooking rocks


make
2 tan
cooking basket
make 3
tan
soup
basket
make
1
brown
paddle
background
trees
green
red flame
brown wood
cooking
gray rocks
cut 1 composite
fire
river
cut 1
blue



cut 1 brown
Deer

Panther
lt:
cut 1 brown

55

Tlingkit Haida
Nootka, Bella Coola

Blue Stone Man

Back in the days when the animals were the people of this earth, everyone lived in villages and spoke the common language. Raven was the headman of his clan and his clan was very large. Well, one morning Raven got up very early and was very hungry. He looked and looked but couldn't find a fish hook to catch his breakfast from the nearby river. He searched around by the river bank and found a large blue stone. He tied a rag on it and put some feathers on it. The blue stone looked just like a man standing on the river bank.

Then Raven made a shallow pool near the Blue Stone Man by building a ridge of sand in a circle at the edge of the water. After he had finished his fish trap, Raven sat beside Blue Stone Man and waited. After awhile, sure enough, Raven saw Salmon swimming up river looking for his breakfast. As soon as Raven saw him in the river, he jumped up and hid behind the Blue Stone Man out of Salmon's sight.

When Salmon got close enough to hear him, Raven began to call him every awful name he could think of. He called Salmon 'black mouth, long tooth, big head, and big bone'. Raven called him every not nice name he could in a big voice to make sure Salmon knew he was being insulted. When he hear Raven shouting such awful names at him, Salmon looked around to see who was saying these terrible things.

Salmon saw the Blue Stone Man with feathers and a rag tied around it and thought it was a man who was calling him names. He went rushing toward the Blue Stone Man to make him stop teasing him and suddenly he was cought in the fish trap. As he was flopping this way and that trying to free himself from the shallow trap, Raven ran into the woods and found a big stick. He came back to the fish trap and hit Salmon with his club and killed him.

All of the running, and yelling, and splashing had awaken all of the village. Everyone in the village came running to the fish trap to see what was happening. When they saw Salmon dead on the beach, everyone began to sing and dance. What a great feast they would have this day!

Raven was very proud of himself and strutted up and down the beach with his chest puffed out, his head bobbing this way and that. But he had not forgotten how hungry he was so finally he said,"Go into the woods and find something to wrap Salmon in. It must be big so sand won't get into the meat as he is cooking." Everyone was very excited and ran in every which direction. They brought back big skunk cabbage leaves to cook Salmon in. But Raven said, "No, we cannot use these leaves. They are not good. My wife was burned where those leaves are growing. You must go across the mountain and get fresh skunk cabbage leaves.

Now no one was very happy to have to go such a long way away and take so much time before they could eat., but they all agreed it was best and went off over the mountain to get the fresh leaves. As soon as they were out of sight, Raven rolled Salmon up in the skunk cabbage leaves the other had left on the beach. He dug a big pit in the sand, put Salmon in the hole, covered him up, built a fire on top and cooked him until he was tender and tasty. When the fire had died, Raven uncovered Salmon and ate him all up. He covered up

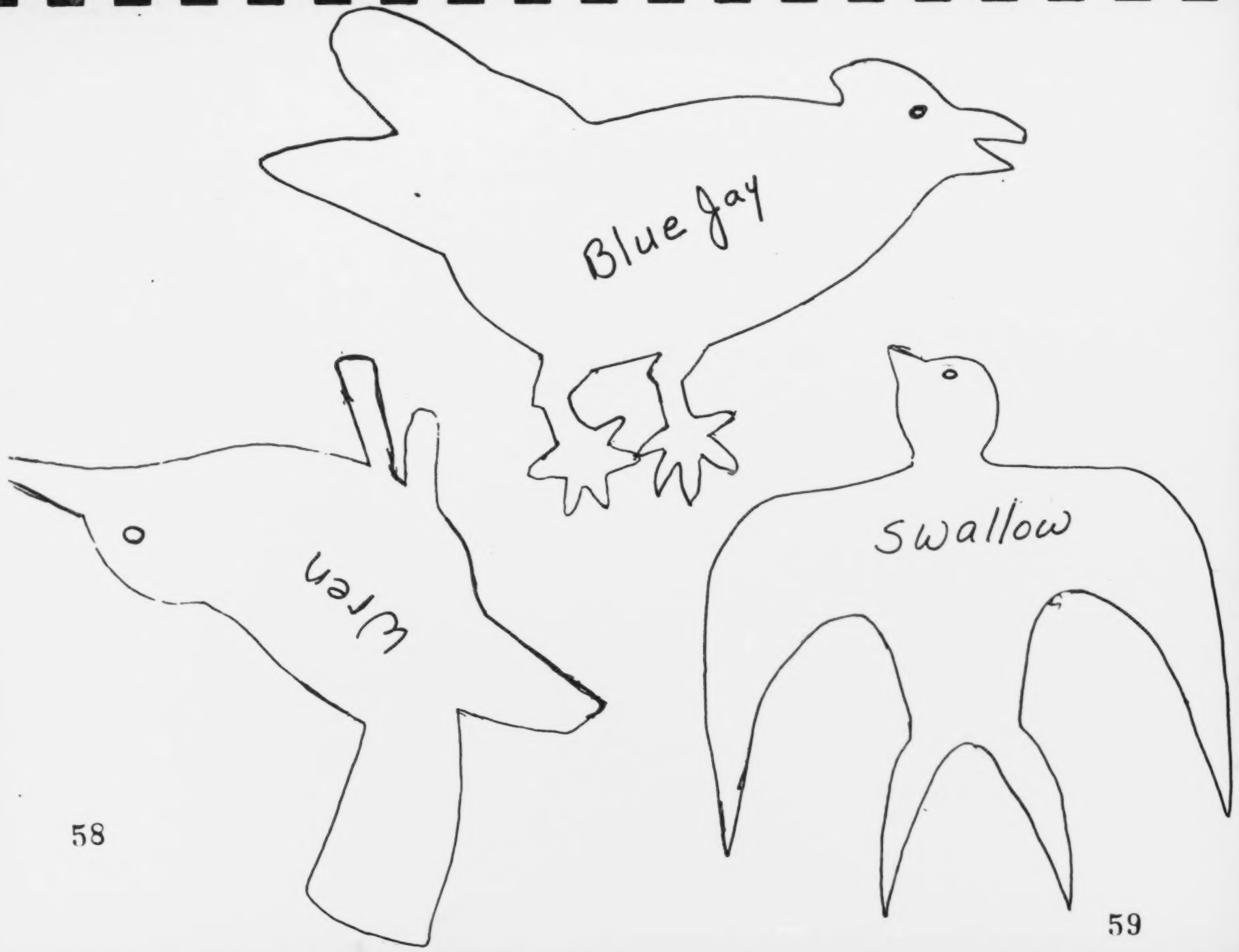
The fire pit and went to sleep by the Blue Stone Man. His belly was full and he was sleeping very soundly when the village people came back with their skunk cabbage leaves.

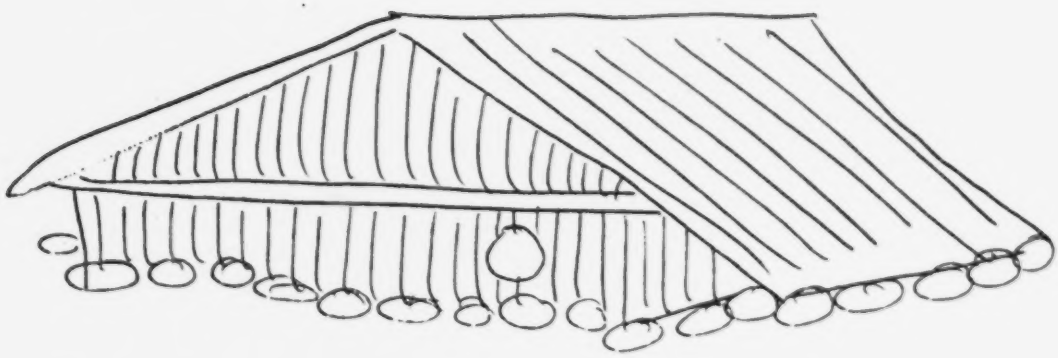
When Raven opened his eyes everyone was looking at him. "Where is Salmon?" they all asked. Raven pretended he didn't know what happened to him, I've been here sleeping by this rock. Maybe that stup fell on him. Go away, I want to ge back to sleep."

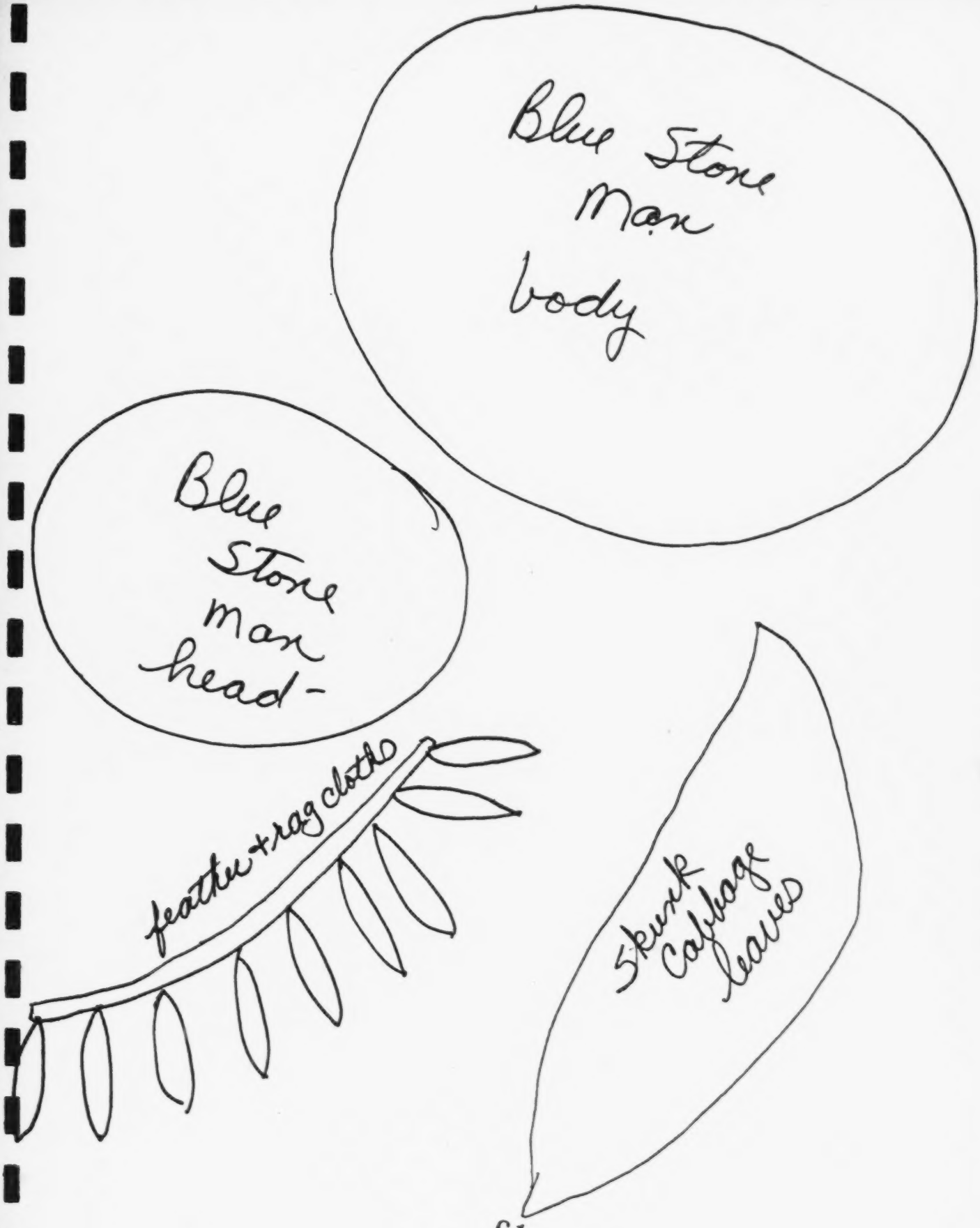
But Blue Stone Man spoke up and said, "Raven ate the Salmon all up himself and covered up the fire pit."

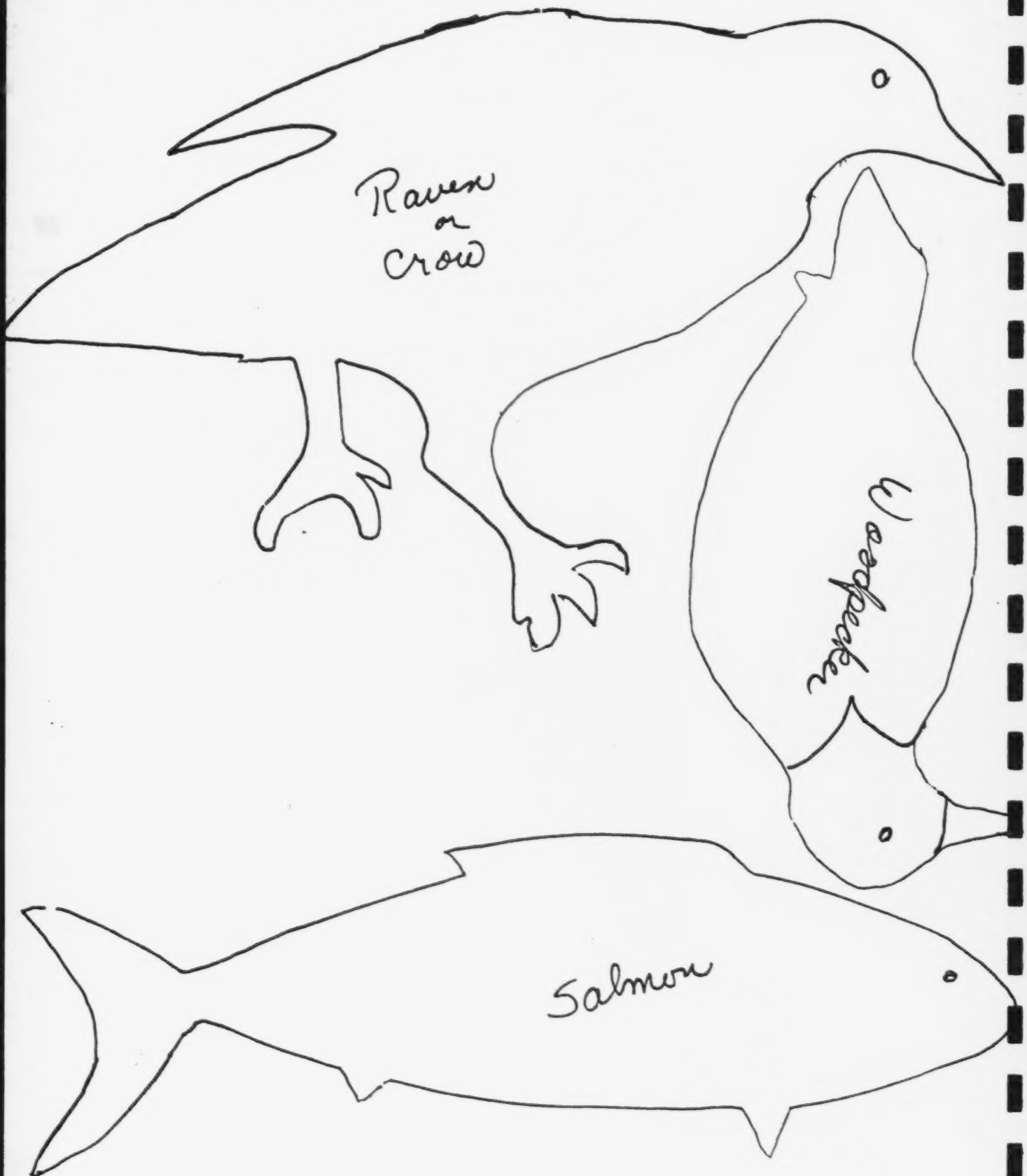
Everyone was very upset. How could this be? Raven was their brother and you always share with your brothers anything you have caught. Squirrel was so excited he ran around and around and finally ran up a tree and sat and scolded Raven from the branches. Chick-a-dee was so sad that this terrible thing had happened in their village that he cried and cried. As he rubbed his hands across his eyes to wipe the tears away, he left long black streakes over each eye. Blue Jay was so sad he didn't even notice he sat so close to the fire he burned his feet. That is why he has black feet to this very day.

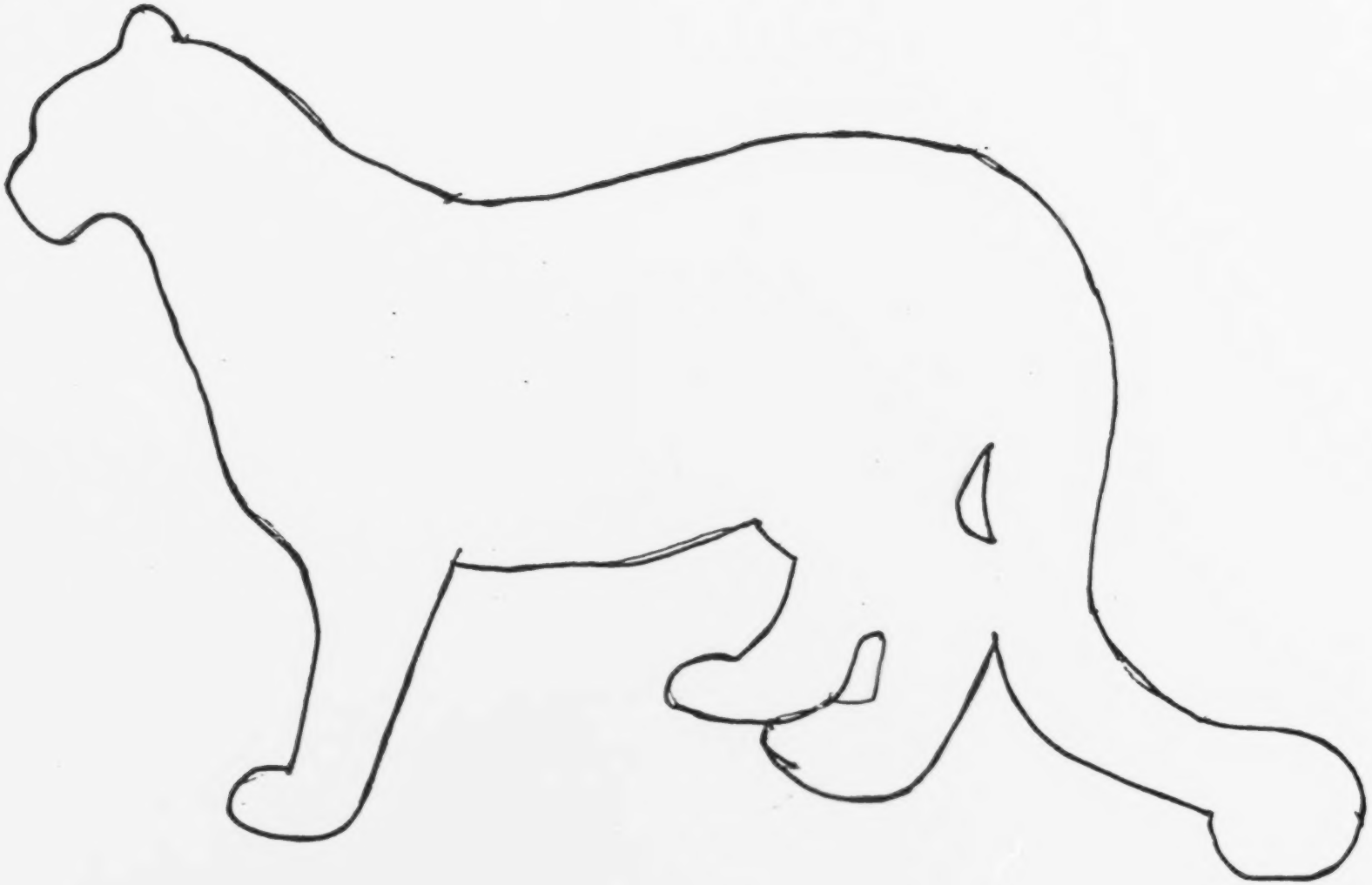
Wren was unhappy too, but was afraid of Raven so he put his tail in the air and turned his back on Raven and went to hide under the bushes where he scolded and scholded him. Woodpecker and Swallow were so upset they flew off and never came back again. Everyone left Raven alone just as they do today because he ate all of the Salmon himself and lied to his friends."

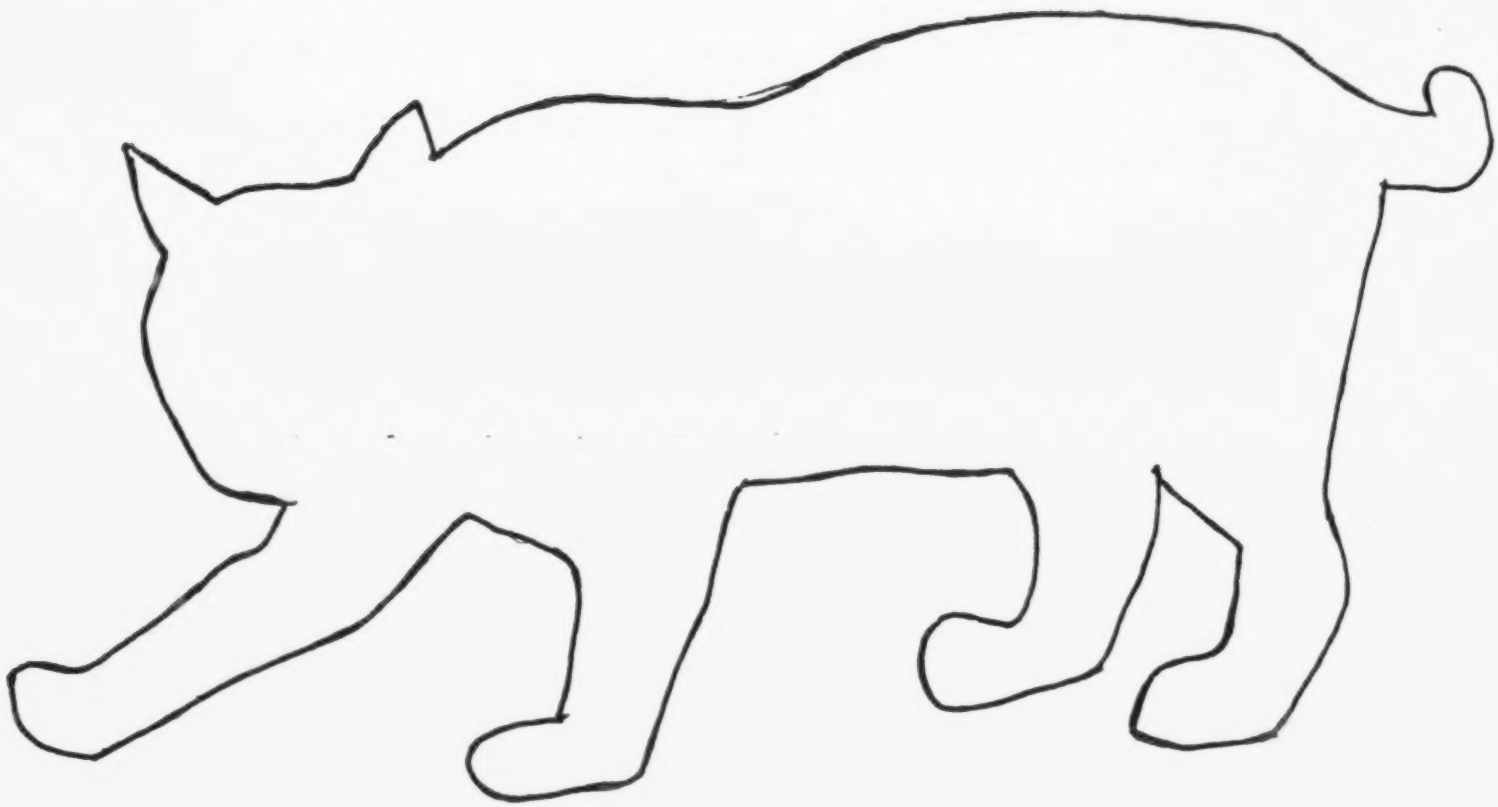

Blue jay
wren
swallow



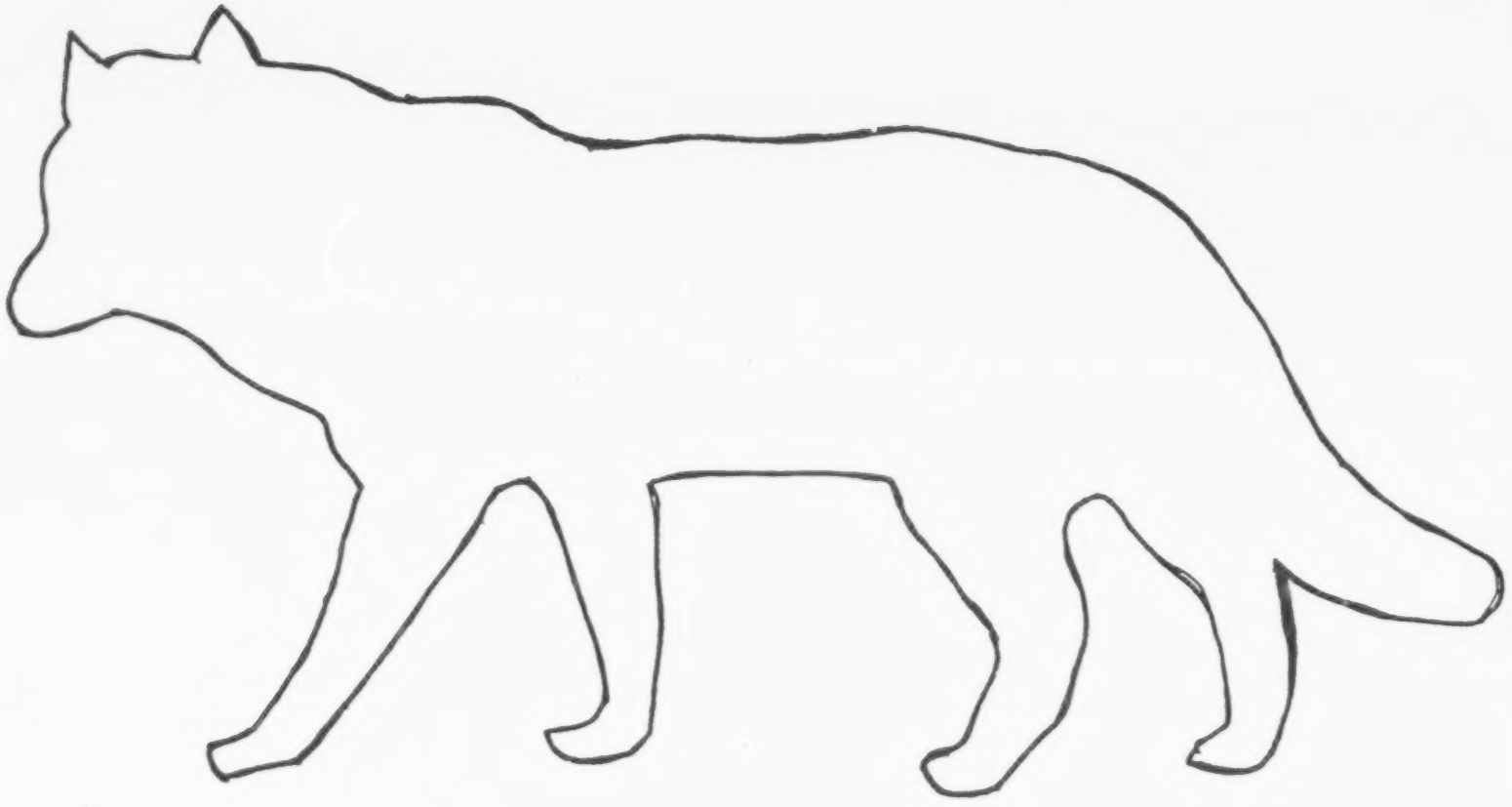

Blue Stone Man body
Blue Stone Man head-
feather + rag cloth
skunk Cabbage leaves


Raven
or
Crow
Woodpecker
Salmon





WOLF



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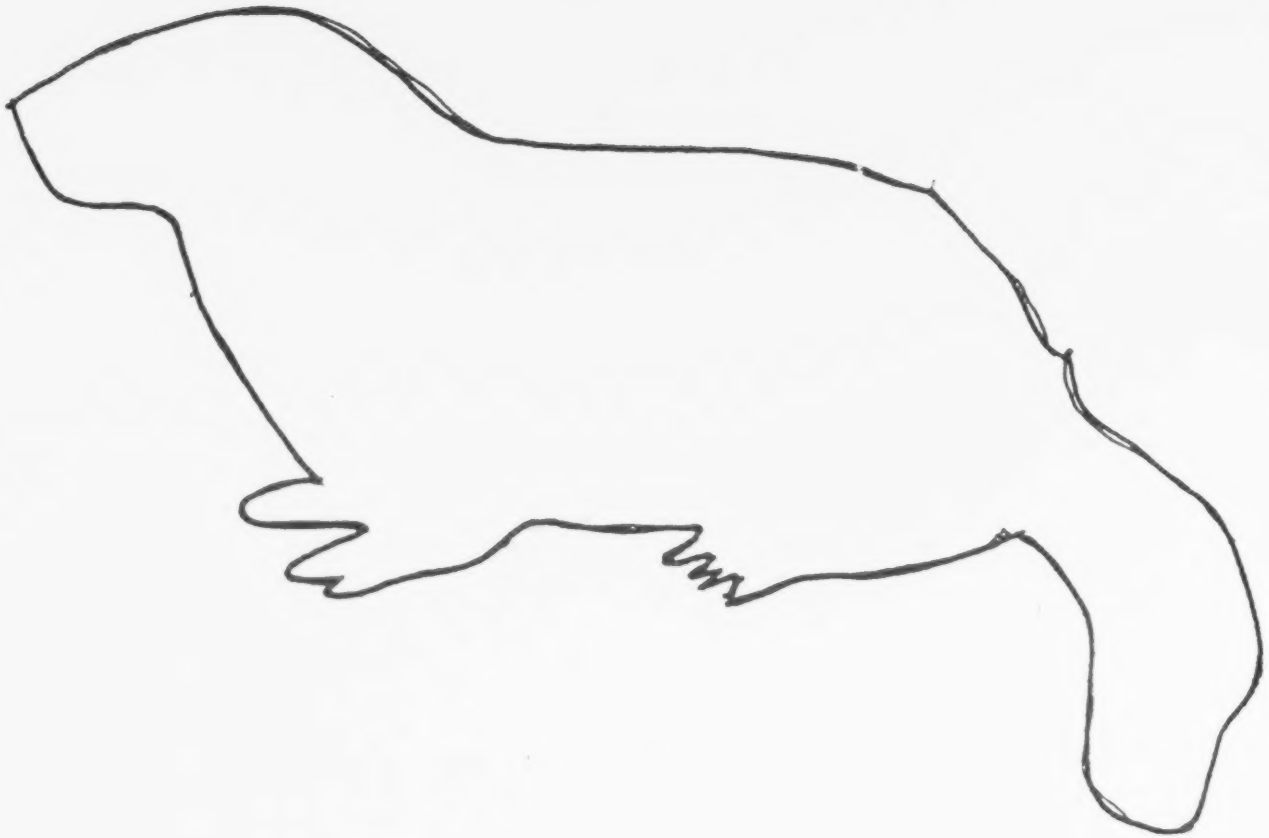
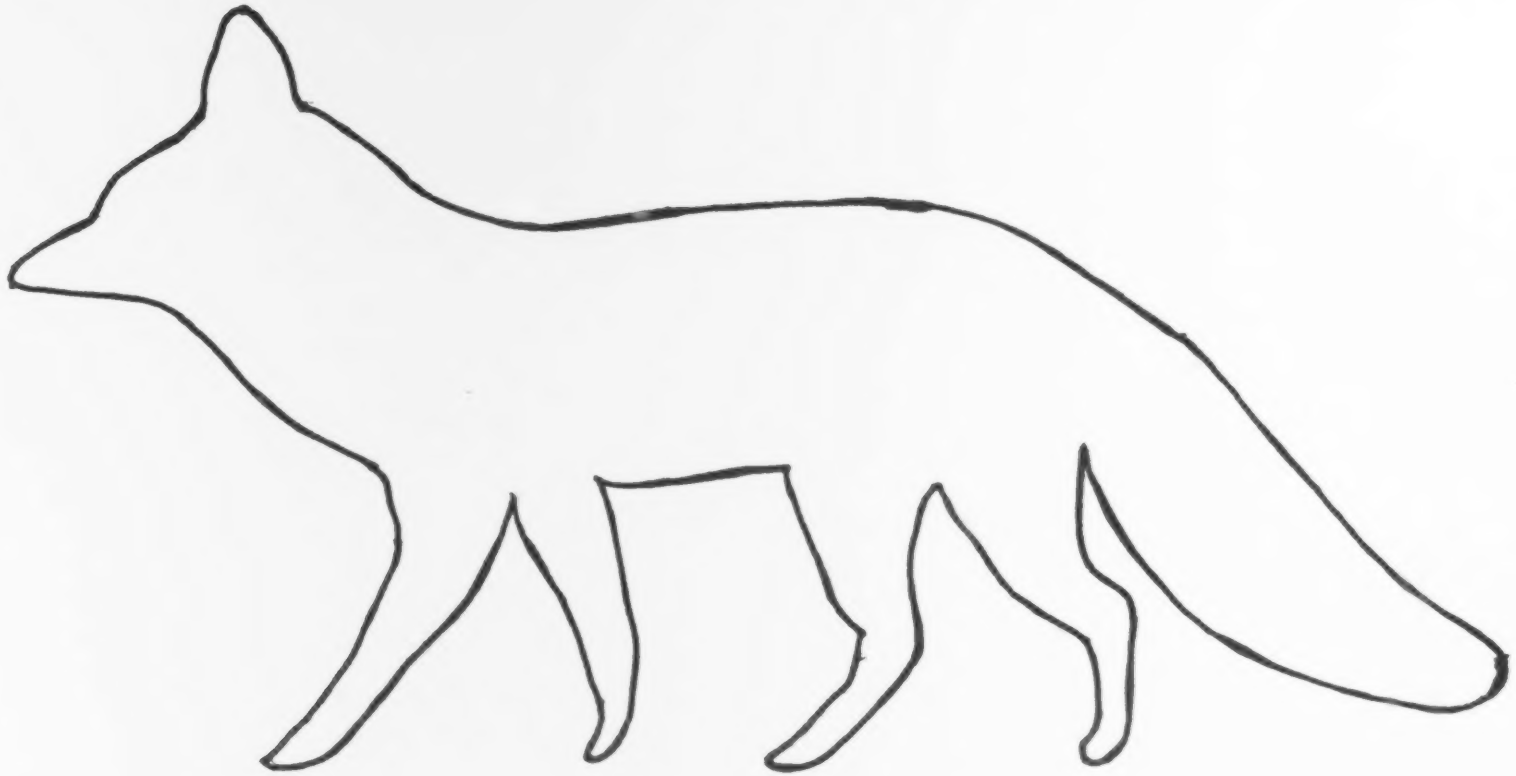
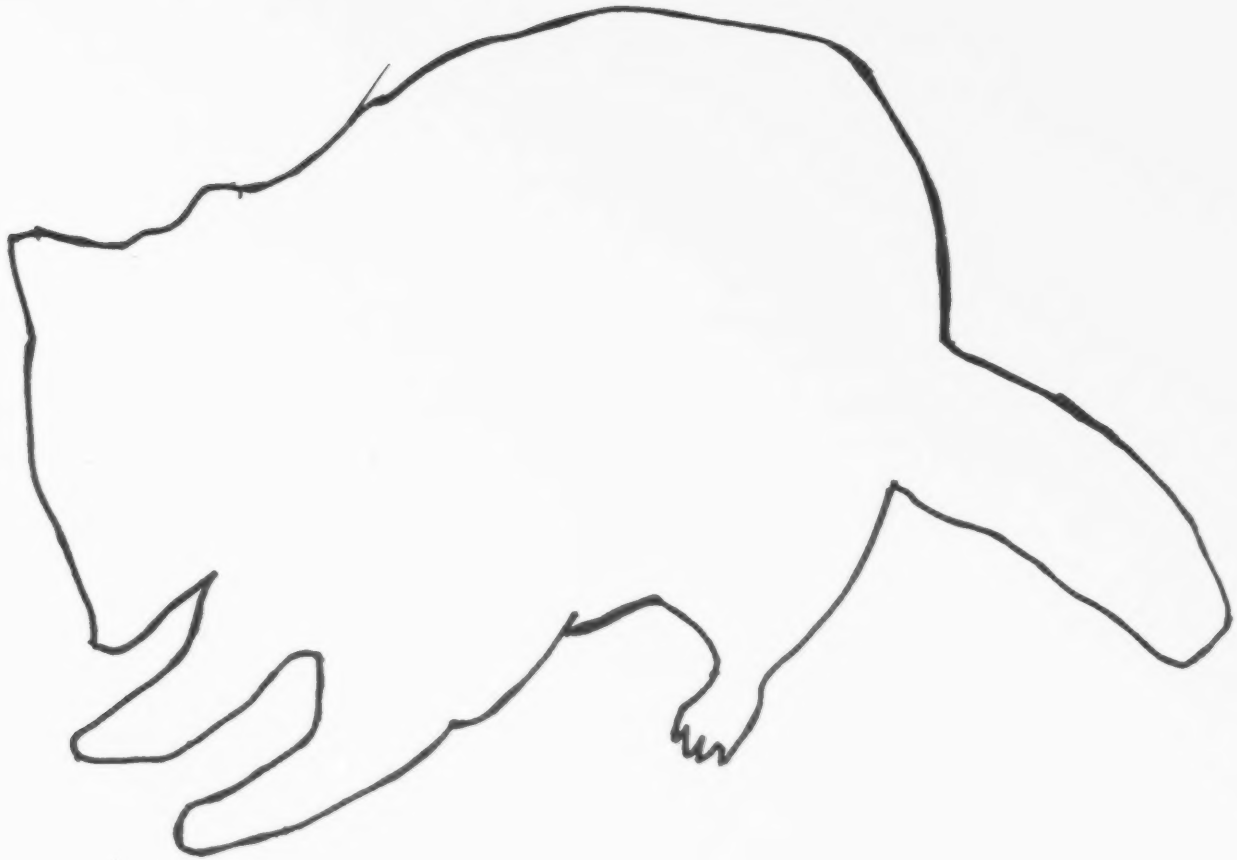




Ring tail Raccoo

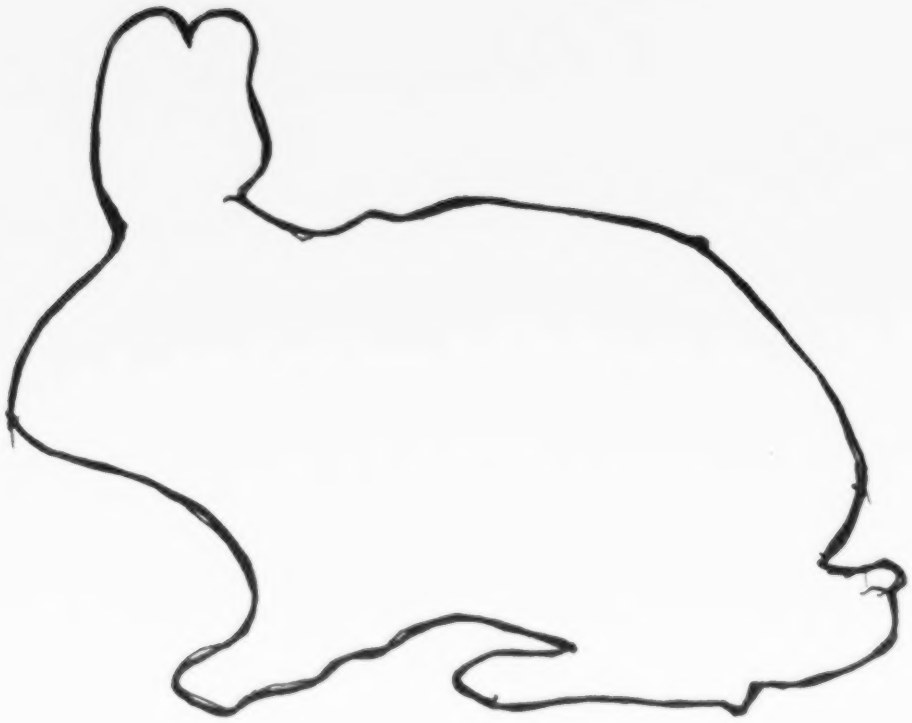


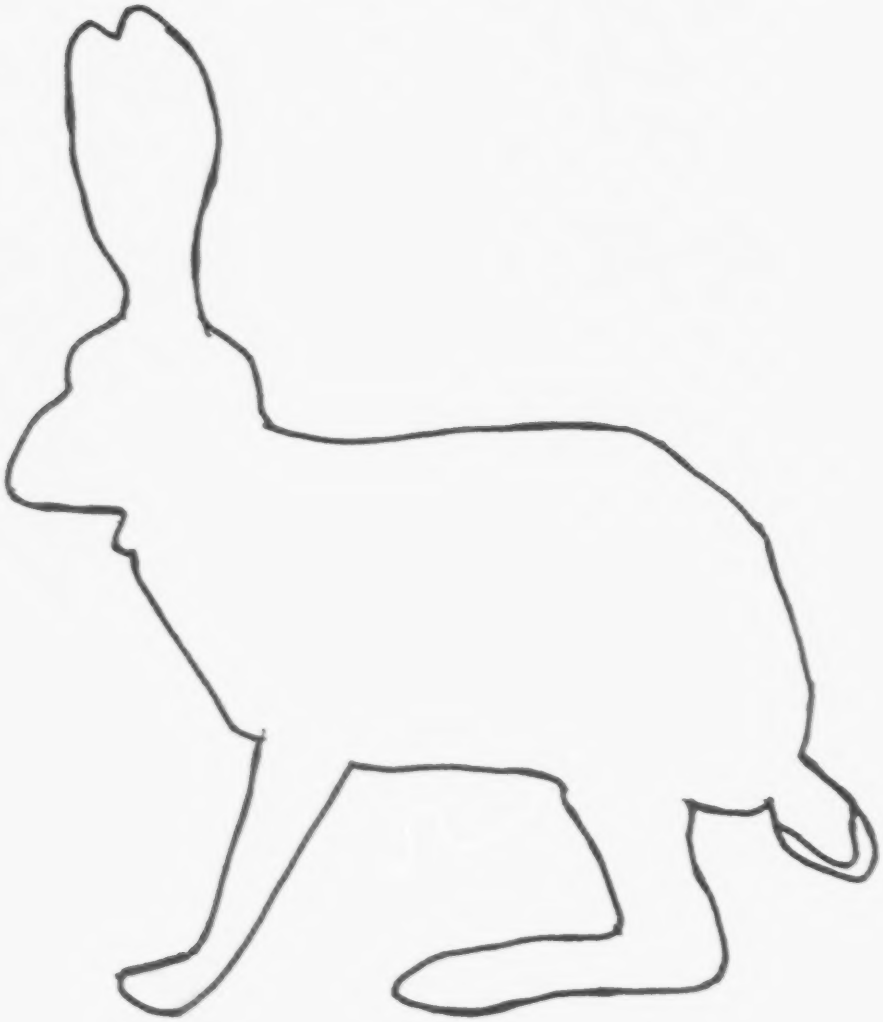
Opossom

Badger

Porcupine

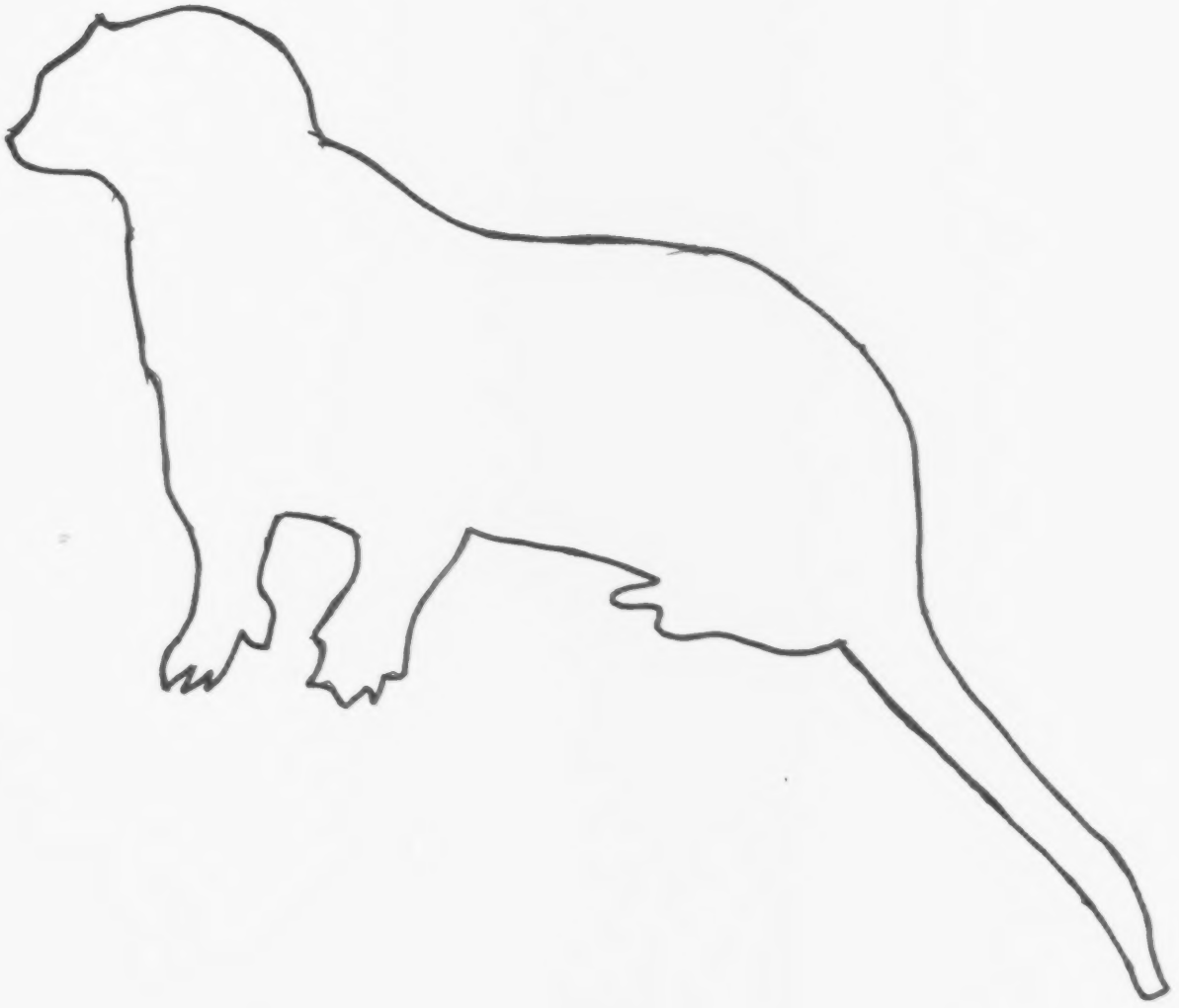
Cottontail

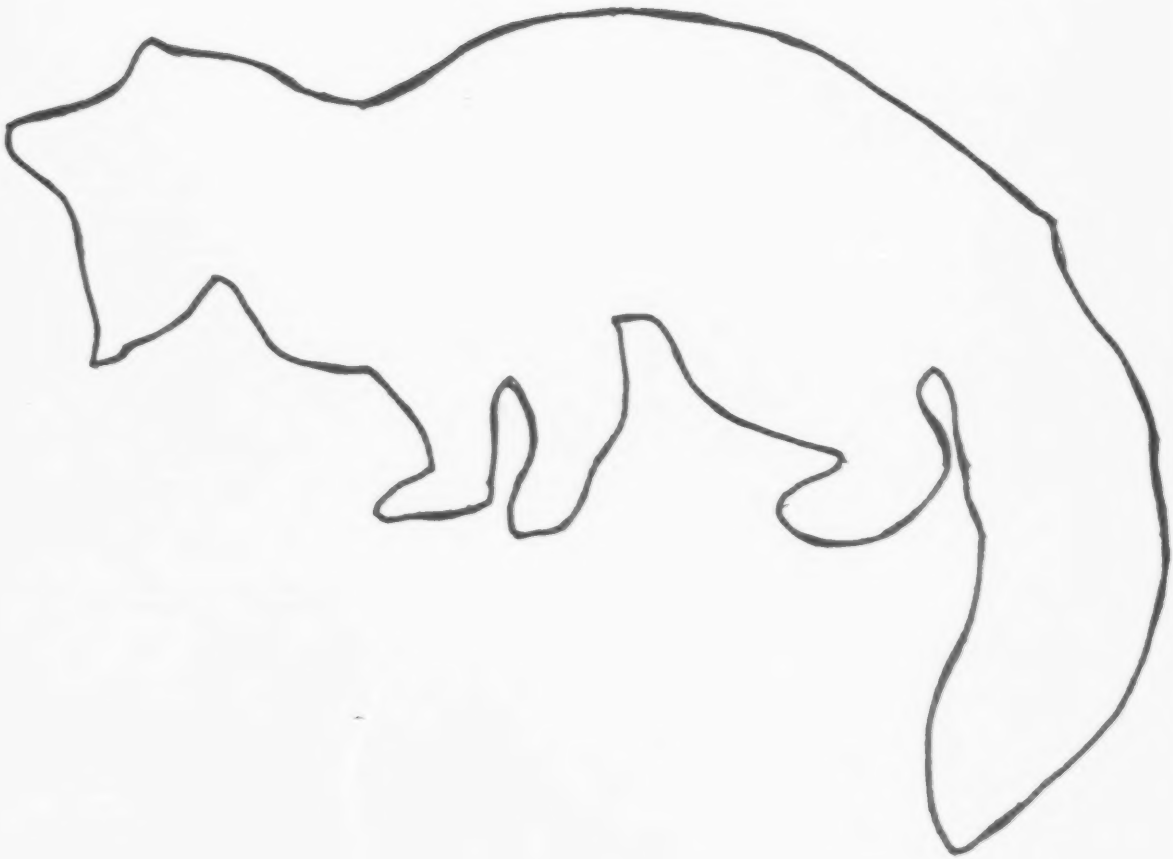




Skunk

River Otter

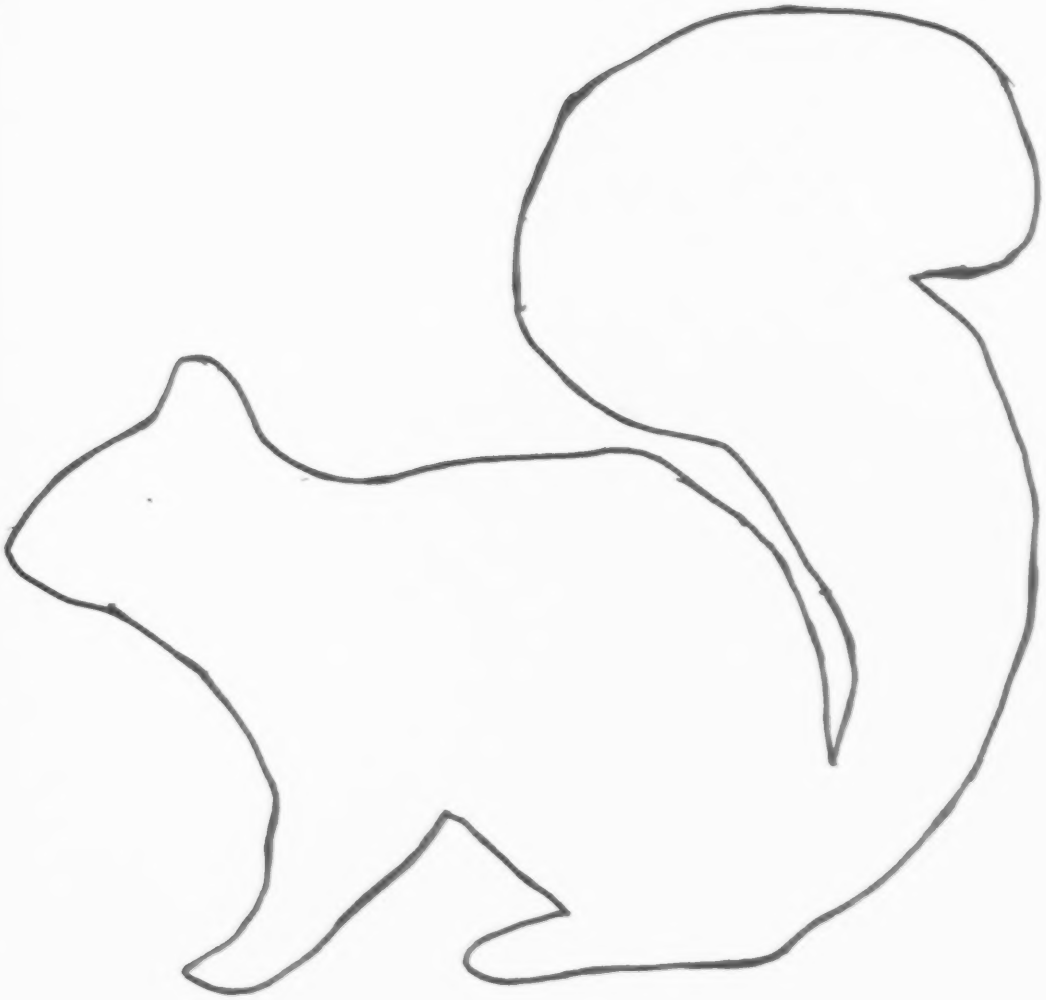




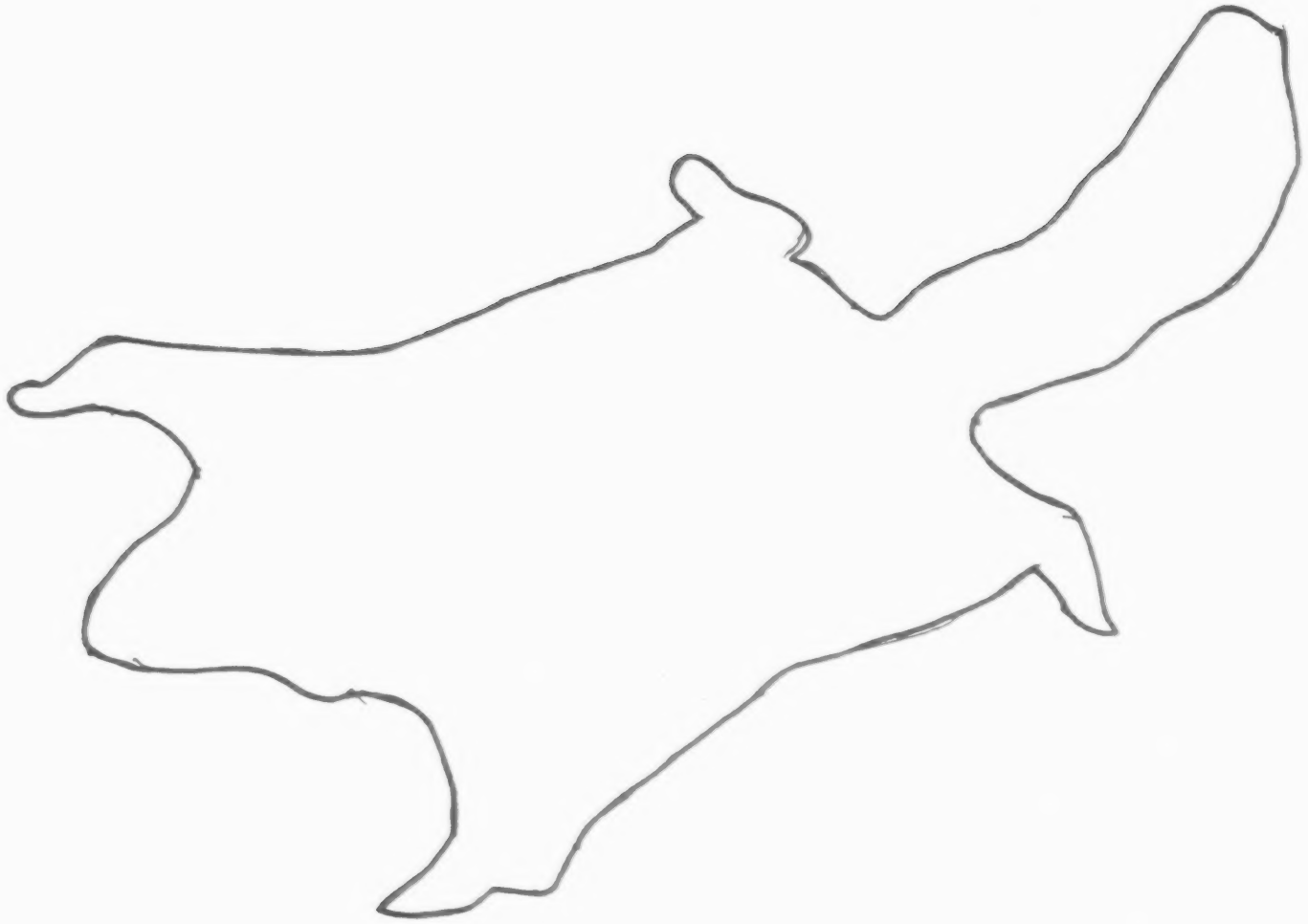
Woodrat

87

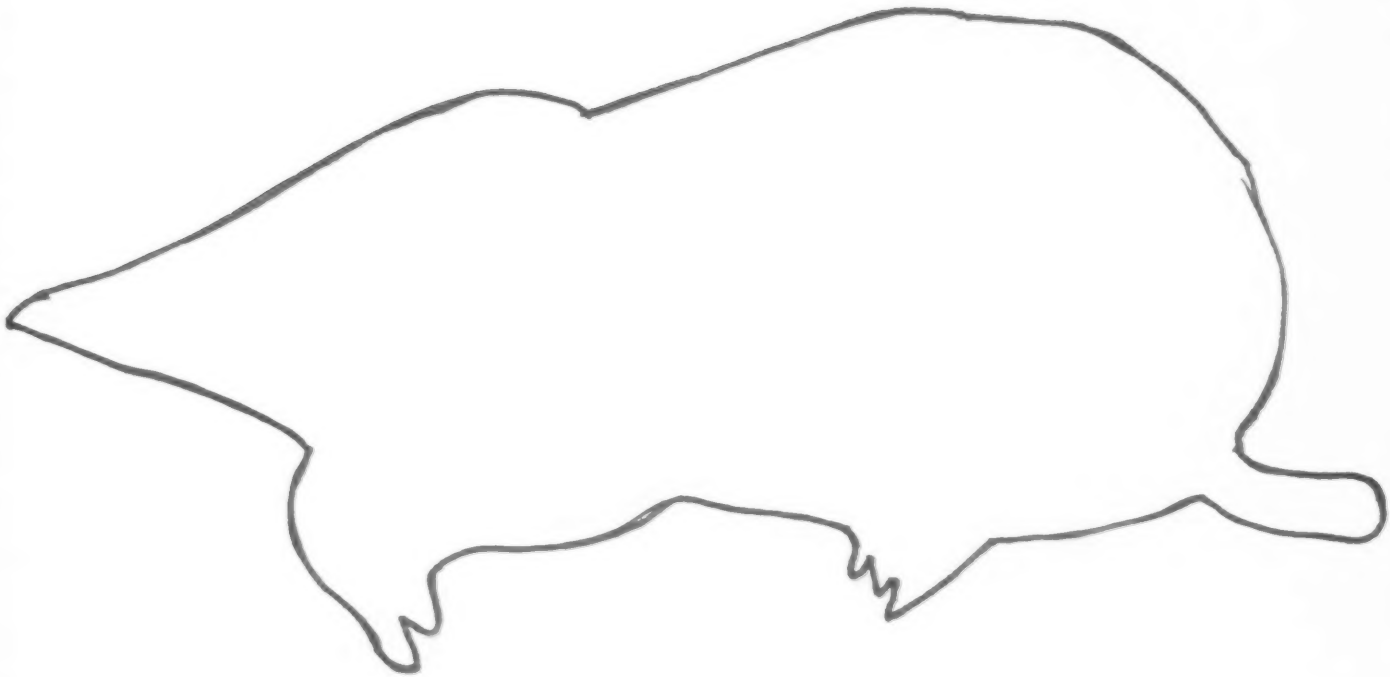
86



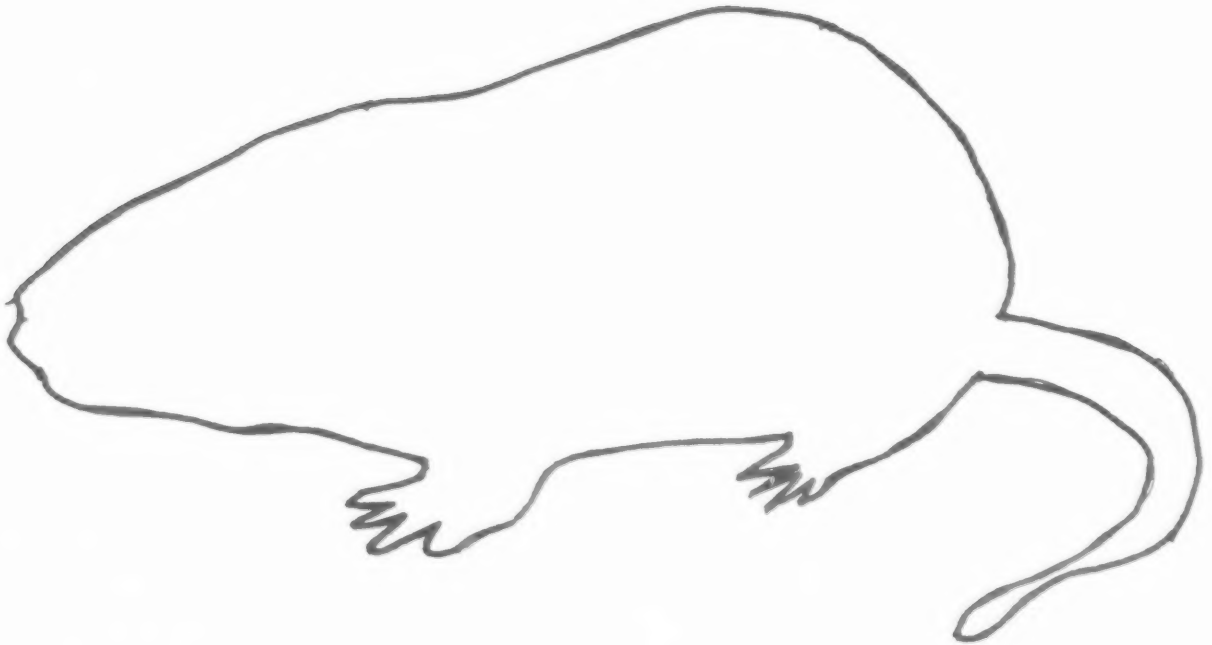
Flying Squirrel



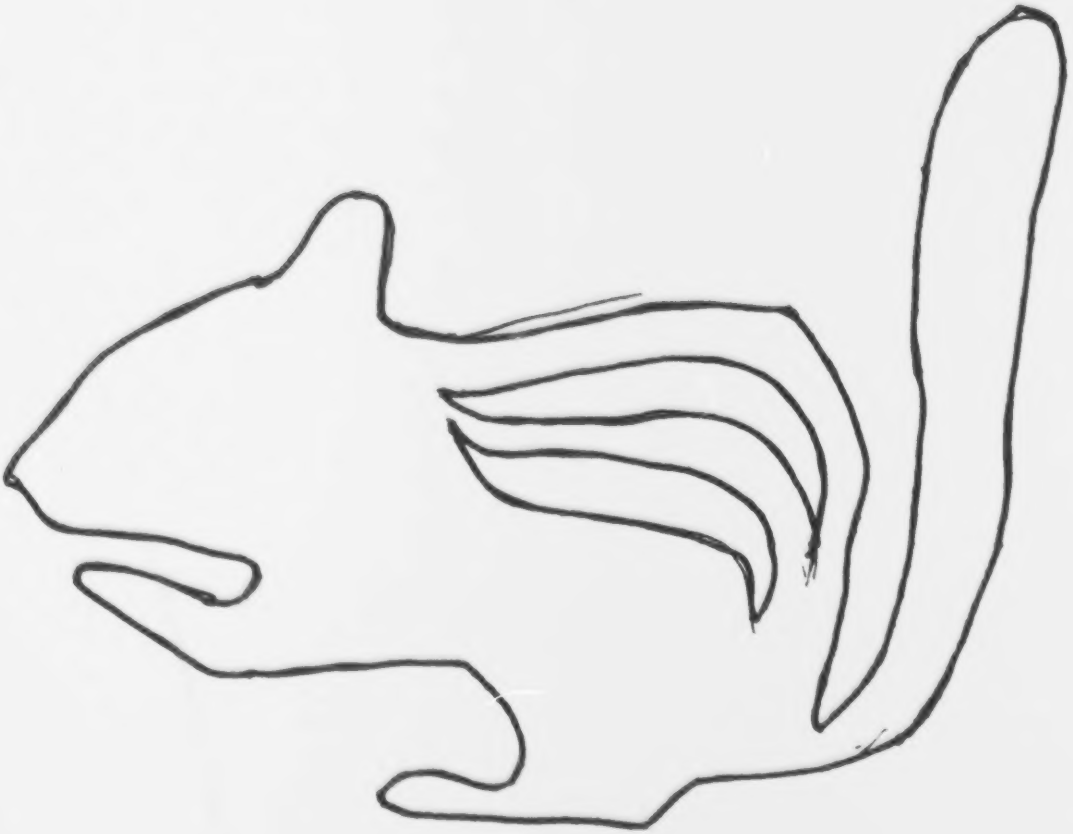
Mol



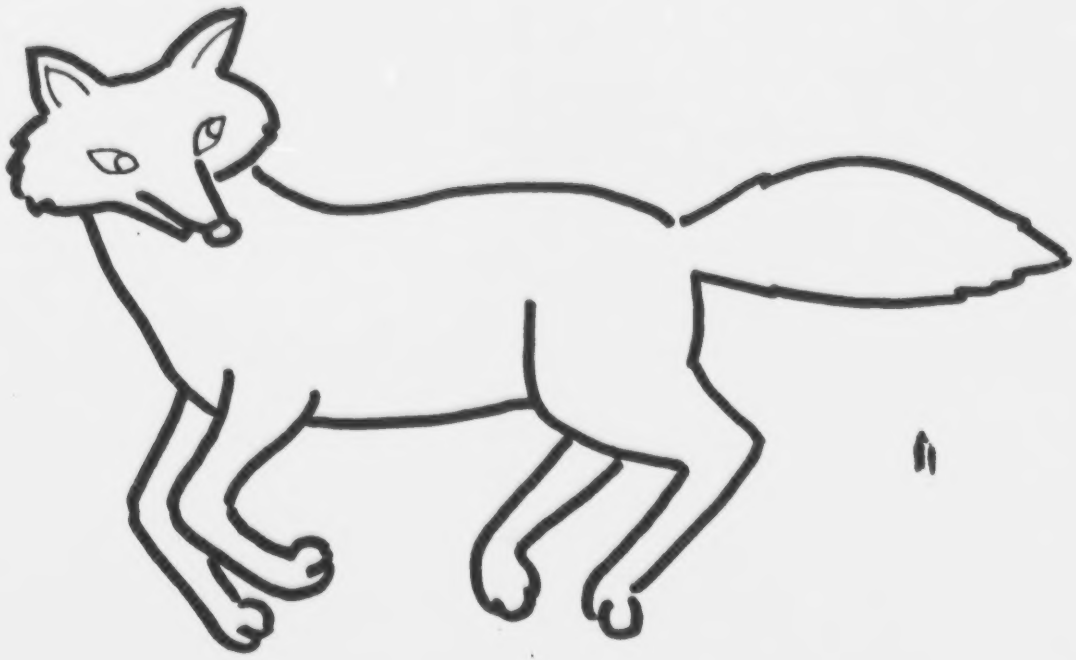
Pocket Gopher



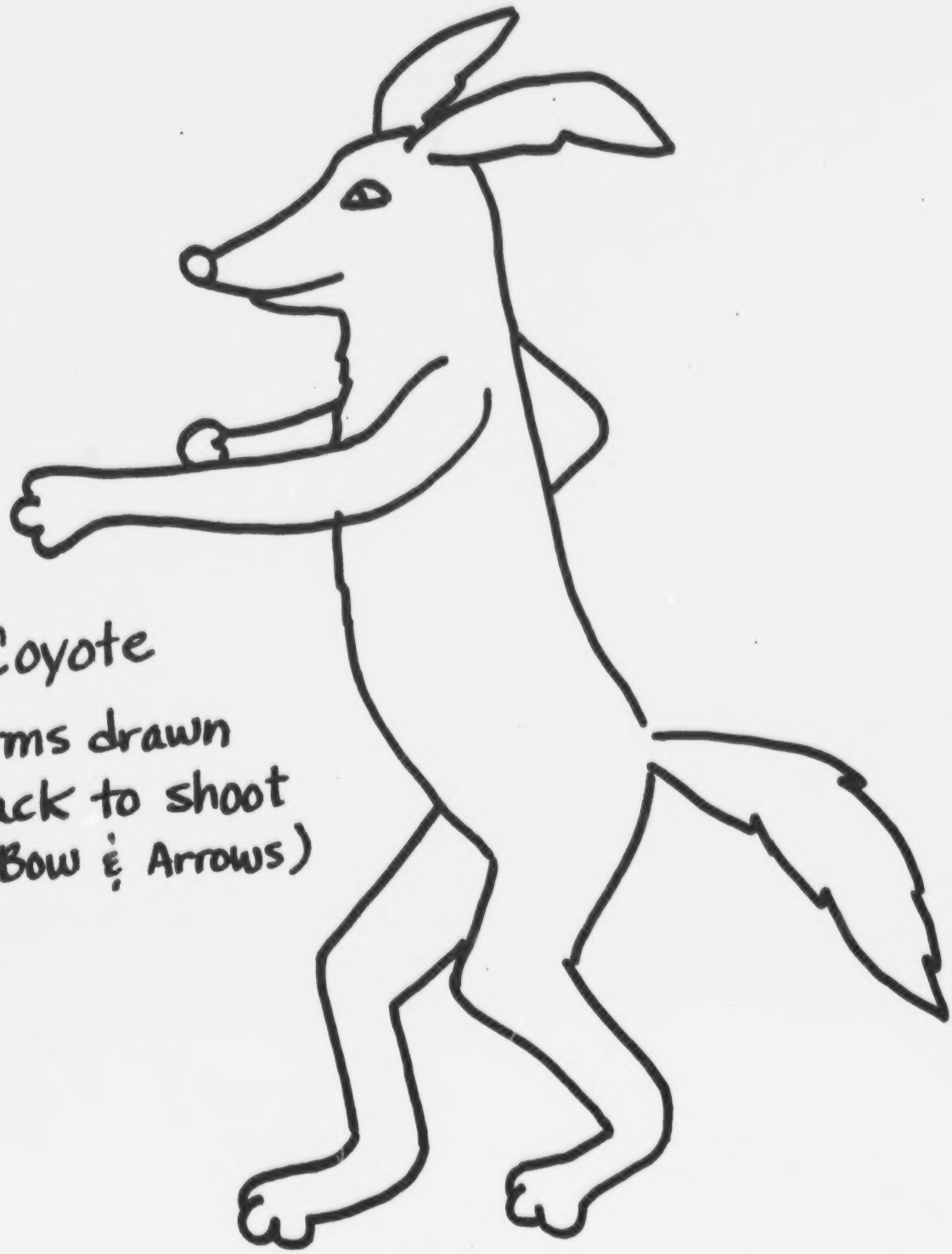
Prairie Dog



Fox (Running away)



(6)



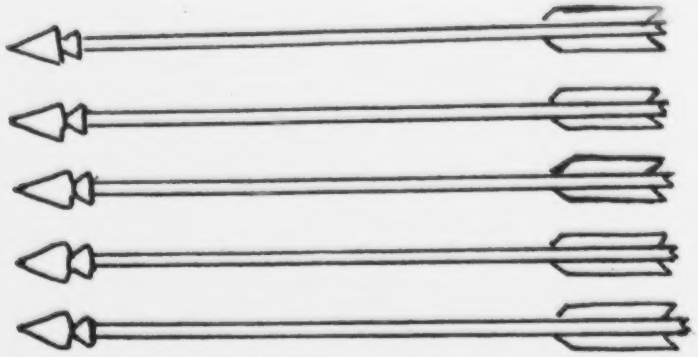
Coyote

(Arms drawn back to shoot Bow & Arrows)

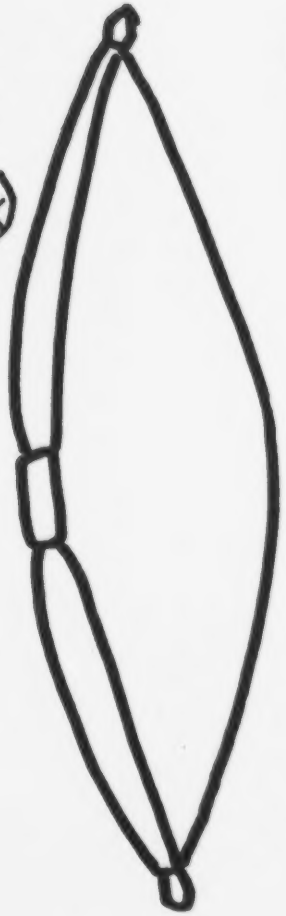
(5)

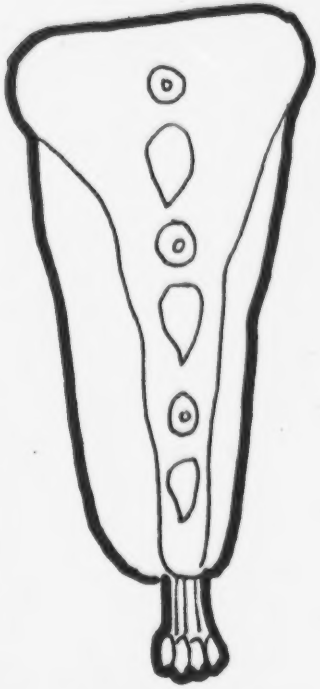
Fox
(Sitting in tree)

Arrows



Bow
(Drawn back)



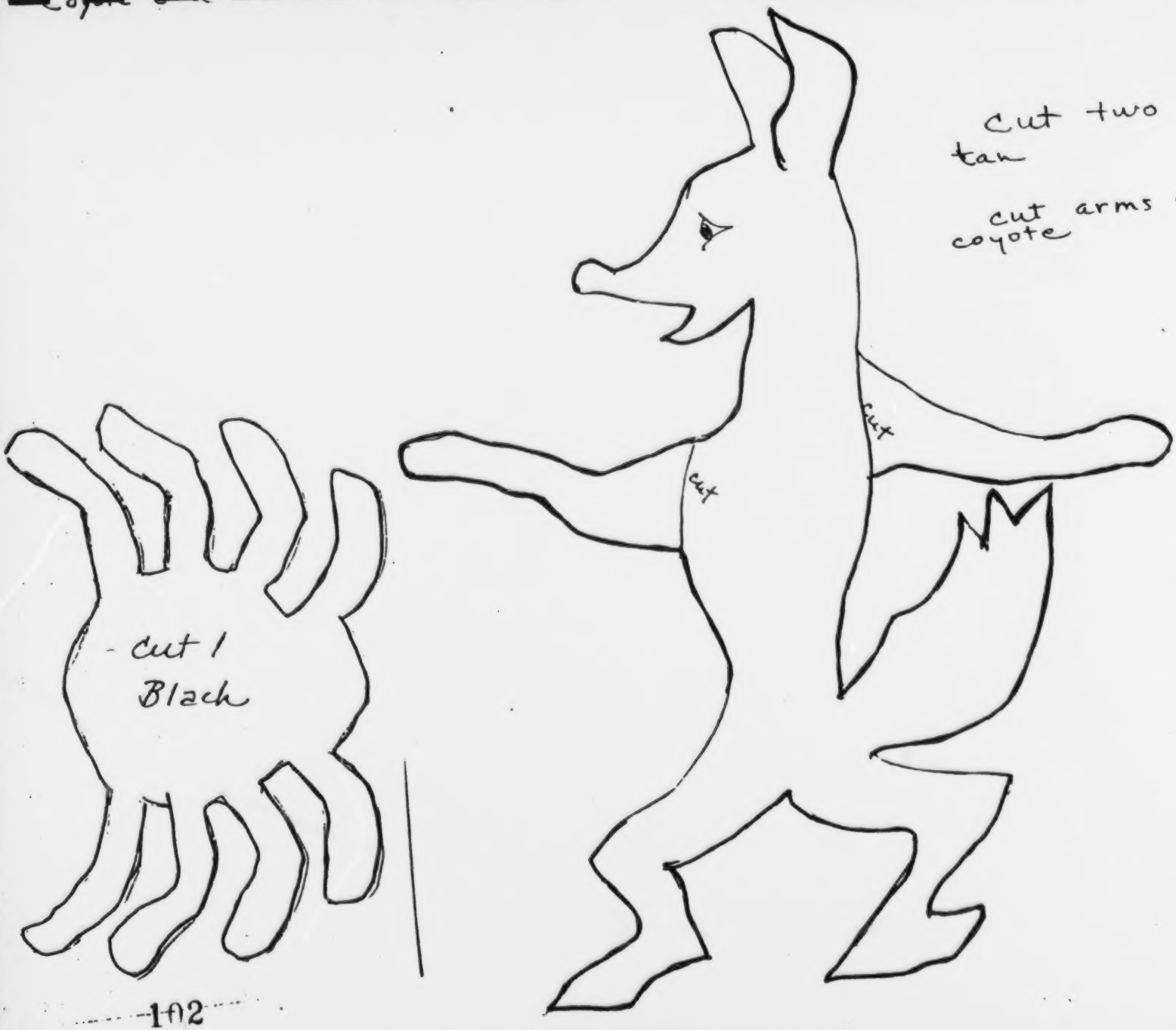


Quiver
(empty)

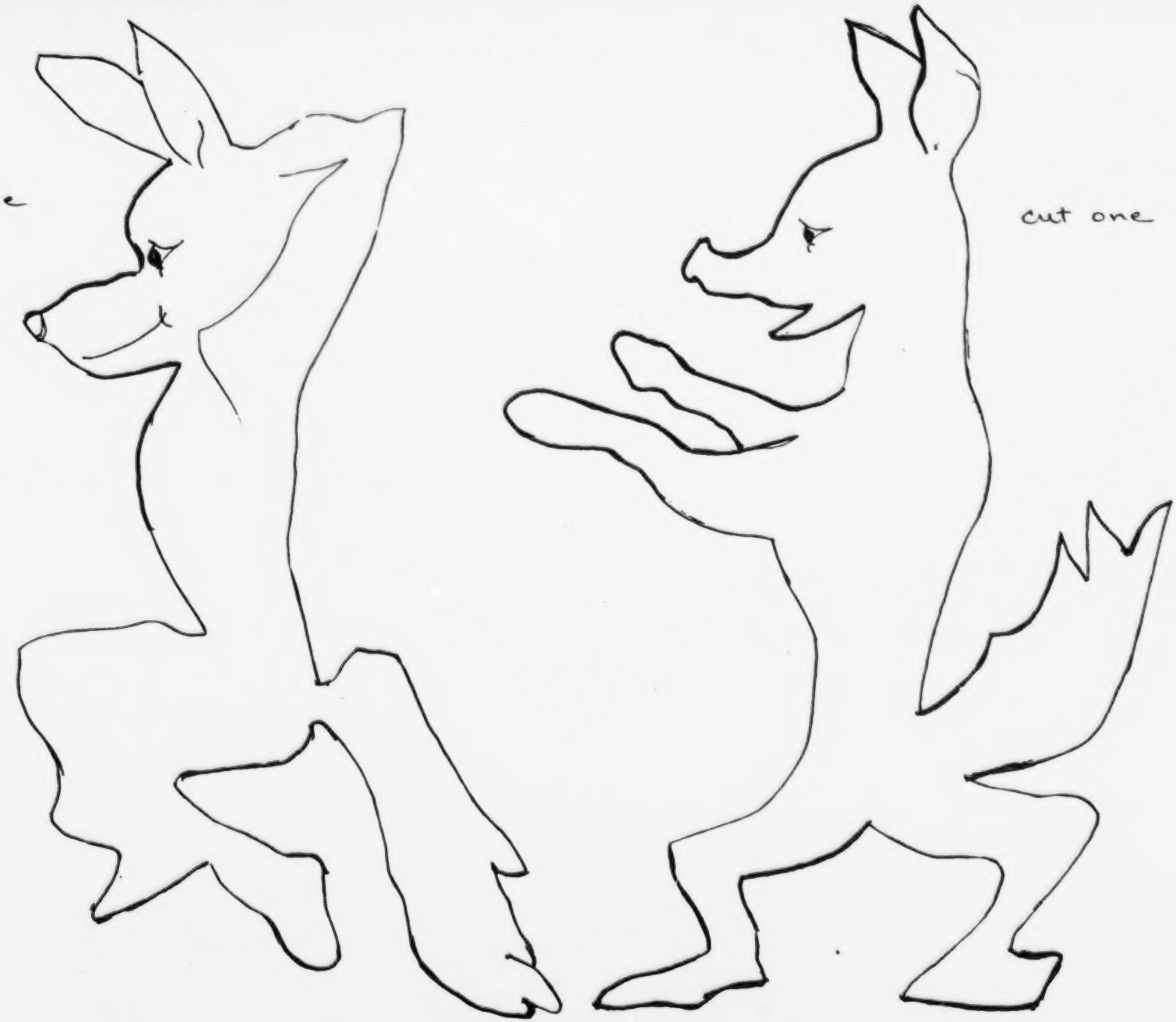
(4)

Sun

Coyote
(lying down)

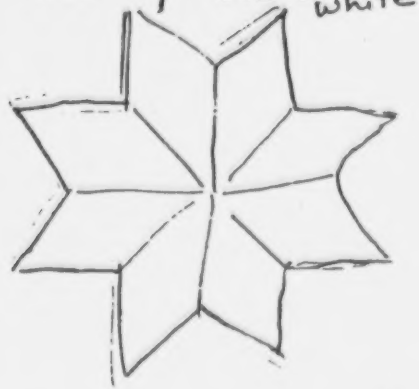

Cut two coyotes tan
cut arms off of one coyote
cut
cut
- cut 1 Black

cut one



cut one

cut 7 stars white



cut yellow moon

cut one white eagle color in features

cut 4 to 7 star maidens pale flesh

Colors	of felt needed	no. of squares
white -	stars and eagle	1
flesh -	the star maidens	2 to 3
tan -	coyotes	2
yellow -	moon	1
green -	the giant redwood background trees	2 or 3
rust -	the place where coyote landed	1

Coyote and the Wren

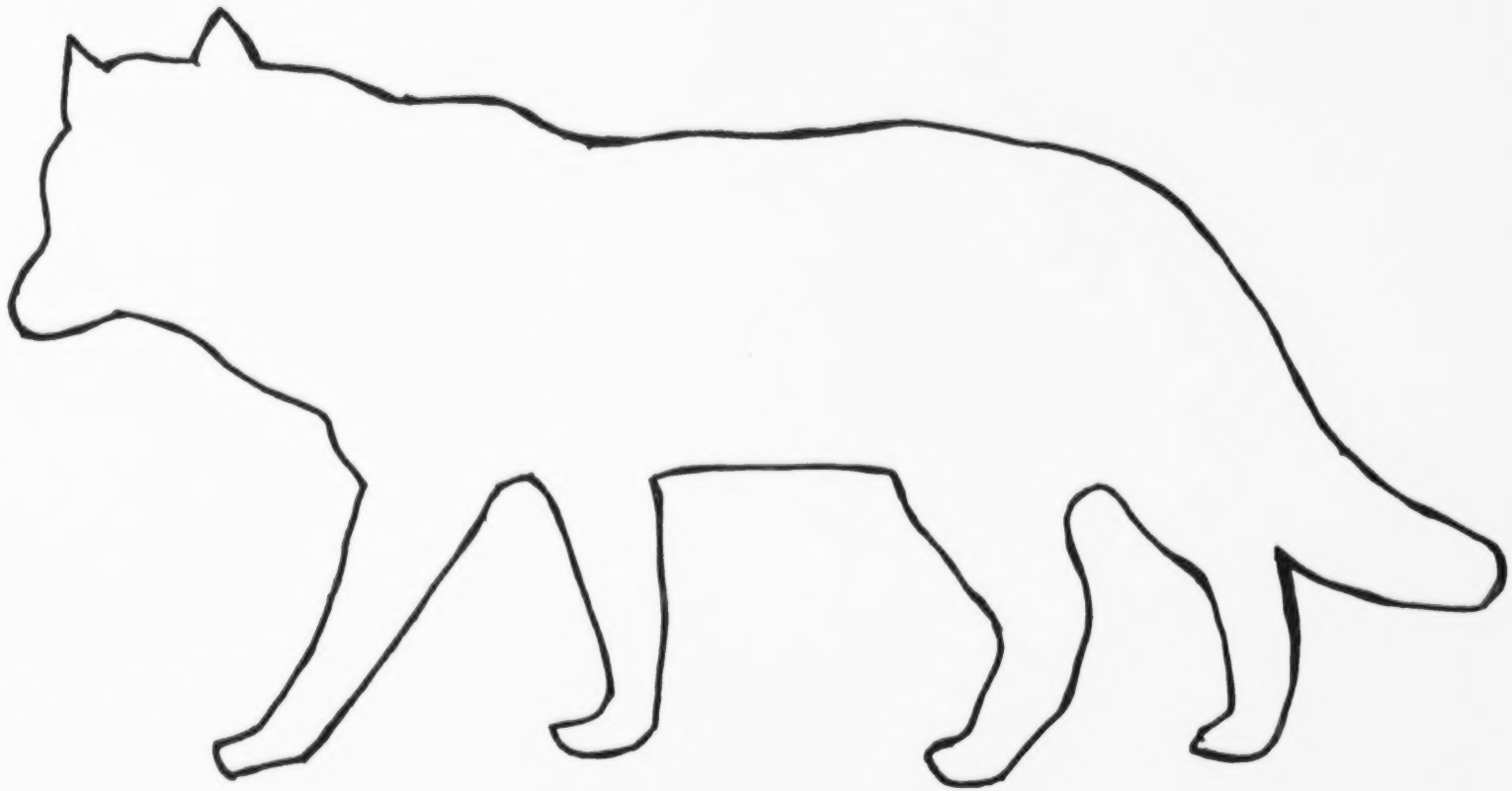
colors of felt needed	no. of squa
tan - basket, wren, coyote acorn	1
gray - mice, rocks	1
brown - paddle	1
green - background trees	1
blue - blue jay	1

Coyote and the Hen

cut one.

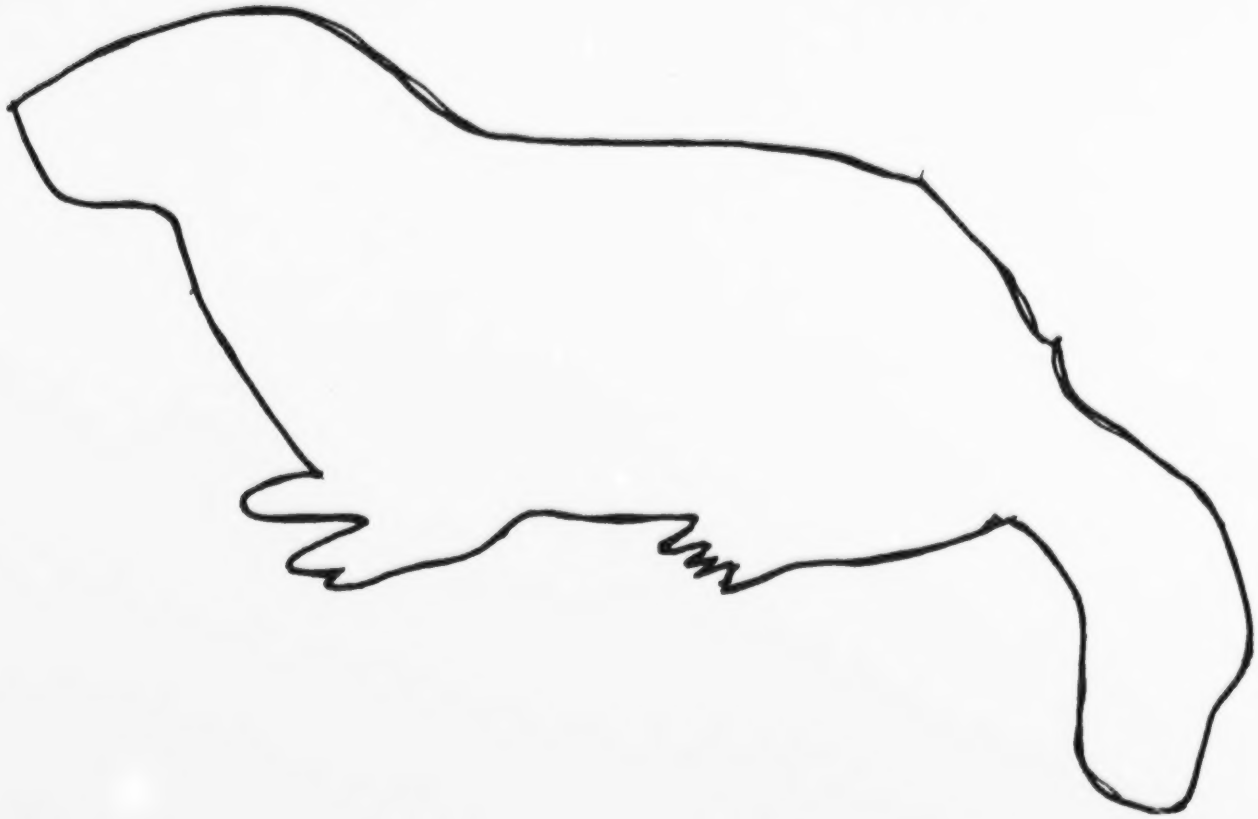
tan

WOLF



113

114



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